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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

National Salvation Front To Vote Against START II *[INTERFAX]* 1
Democratic Russia Leader Foresees START II Ratification *[INTERFAX]* 1
'Pro-U.S. Spirit' of START Treaty Criticized *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 1
Article Welcomes Chemical Weapons Convention *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jan]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Preparations for Foreign Ministers' 22 Jan Minsk Meeting 4
Agenda for Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 4
Russia's Shumeyko Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Korotchenya Gives Preview *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 4
Prospects for 'United Turkestan' Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 5
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Jan 6

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ukrainian President, Delegation Arrive on Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Weather Hampers Landing *[INTERFAX]* 7
Private Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting *[Radio Rossii]* 7
Accord on Black Sea Fleet Commander *[INTERFAX]* 7
Kuchma Meets Chernomyrdin; Holds News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Further Kuchma Remarks *[Kiev TV]* 8
Kuchma, Chernomyrdin Comment *[INTERFAX]* 8
Industrialists Issue Appeal *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
USSR Debt Discussed in 'Runup' to President's Meeting *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 12 Jan]* 9
Creditors To Decide *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Kozyrev Cited on Iraq, Reasons for Early Return *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jan]* 10
Navy Ships in Gulf Redeployed for Routine Maintenance *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Iraqi Responsibility for Air Raid Assessed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jan]* 11
Faction Leaders Oppose Allied Bombing of Iraq *[INTERFAX]* 11
Party Expresses Concern Over Iraq Raids *[INTERFAX]* 12
'Tragic' History Seen Repeating Itself in Iraq *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 12
Estonian-Russian Military, Economic Working Group Meets *[BNS]* 12
Talks Encounter 'Certain Difficulties' *[BALTFAX]* 13
New Round Begins *[BALTFAX]* 13
Voronin Comments on Meeting With PRC Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Yeltsin Concerned Over Latvia Human Rights Violations *[BALTFAX]* 14
Humanitarian Aid Cargo Takes Off for Montenegro *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Academician Gives Details of Yeltsin-Soros Meeting *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 15
Kozyakov on Draft U.S. Budget, Military Spending *[Moscow International]* 15
Shevardnadze's 'Cunning, Dishonest Games' Criticized *[PRAVDA 12 Jan]* 16
Georgian Interior Minister Ends Visit to Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 16
Yeltsin Japan Trip Hinges on 11 Apr Referendum *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jan]* 16
Japanese Minister's Viewing of Kurils Criticized *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 17
Ukraine Using Prague as Anti-Russia Propaganda Center *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jan]* 17
Issues Current in Relations With Balts, Poles Aired *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jan]* 18
Parliament Ratifies Legal Assistance Treaty With Kyrgyzstan *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Churkin Says Intervention in Bosnia Unlikely *[Budapest Radio]* 18
Deputy Foreign Minister Receives Italian Ambassador *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Shakhray Receives Salleo *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 19

Rutskoy Receives Chilean Parliamentary Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Rutskoy on Constitution, Privatization Issues *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Program for Grachev Visit to France Outlined *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jan]* 20
Indifference to Palestinian Deportees 'Drama' Scored *[PRAVDA 12 Jan]* 20
Western Group of Forces Commander Burlakov Interviewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 20
Ministry Official Comments on Weapons Exports *[INTERFAX]* 23

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin, Officials Discuss Referendum Preparations *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Yeltsin Comments Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Constitutional Commission Meets on Referendum *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 24
Popov Calls For Constituent Congress To Adopt Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 25
Syrovatko Comments on Referendum Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Article Views Purpose of Referendum *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Jan]* 25
Implications of Failure Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jan]* 26

Political Issues

Poltoranin Claims Khasbulatov Attempted Coup *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jan]* 27
Security Ministry Dismisses Coup Accusations *[INTERFAX]* 30
Court To Renew Hearings on National Salvation Front *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
More on Yeltsin Edict *[PRAVDA 15 Jan]* 31
Shumeyko on Chernomyrdin Cabinet's Tasks *[INTERFAX]* 31
Security Official Thinks Gorbachev Knows of CPSU Money *[INTERFAX]* 32
Opposition Groups Hold Joint News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Leaders of Parties Discuss National Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Zorkin on Accord *[Russian TV]* 33
Further on Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 33

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Collegium Discusses Strategic Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Armed Forces Not Affected by Action in Iraq *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Defense Ministry Discusses Report on Rocket Forces *[INTERFAX]* 34
Government To Bury Sunken Nuclear Submarine *[INTERFAX]* 34
Officers Organizing To Stop Army's 'Disintegration' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 14 Jan]* 35

Economic Issues

Minister on Measures To Stabilize Agriculture Situation *[INTERFAX]* 35
Government Set To Procure Grain With French Credit *[INTERFAX]* 36
Government Directive on Economic Reform Decree Summarized
[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan] 36
Economic Freedom Party's Borovoy Hits Chernomyrdin Moves
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 14 Jan] 37

Media Issues

Yeltsin Greets Media Workers on Press Day *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 37
Khasbulatov Greets Media *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 37
Military Media's Role Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Jan]* 37

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Adopts Resolution on Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 38
Rules Referendum for 11 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Parliament Adopts Laws, Ratifies Kyrgyzstan Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
New Supreme Soviet Committee Chairman Named *[Moscow TV]* 38

Communists Protest at Parliament; Disturbances Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
'Heated Clashes' Predicted for Supreme Soviet Session *[PRAVDA 12 Jan]* 39
Khasbulatov 'Programmatic' Article Attacked *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 13 Jan]* 39
Khasbulatov on Constitution, Referendum *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Jan]* 40
Correction to Baburin Motions for Ship Withdrawal 44

Regional Affairs

Shakhray, Chechen Leaders Discuss Northern Caucasus 44
View Normalization of Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Protocol Signed After Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Shakhray Comments on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Treaty To Be Signed *[INTERFAX]* 46
Chechnya Reasserts Sovereignty, Independence Stance *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jan]* 46
Nationalities Official Interviewed on Caucasus Problems *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 46
Situation Remains Complicated *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Stavropol Defense Industry Plant Conversion Succeeds *[Russian TV]* 47
Taganrog Plant Conversion Damages Defense Potential *[Moscow TV]* 48
Tatarstan Currency, Economic Council Established *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 13 Jan]* 48
Tomsk Oblast Soviet Against Nuclear Waste Dump Site *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 48
Russian Security Minister Visits Tyumen Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk on START Treaties, Moscow Talks, Israel *[INTERFAX]* 50
Defense Minister To Take Part in Yelstin Talks *[INTERFAX]* 50
Security Guarantee With Russia Not Yet Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 50
Industrial Defense Agreement With Russia Viewed *[Kiev International]* 50
Glukhikh Comments on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Supreme Soviet Hits Russian Resolution on Sevastopol *[KHRESHCHATYK 11 Dec]* 51
Reaction to Russia 'Inadequate' *[RADA 11 Dec]* 51
Trade, Economic Commission To Be Formed With Poland *[Kiev International]* 52
Weapons Sales Possible *[INTERFAX]* 52
Israel Ties, Kravchuk Visit Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jan]* 52
Kuchma Discusses Cooperation With Hungarian Envoy *[INTERFAX]* 53
Lithuania Said Interested in Strengthening Ties *[KHRESHCHATYK 9 Dec]* 53
Deputy Minister Views COCOM Ban as 'Discrimination' *[KYYIVSKA PRAVDA 8 Dec]* 53

National Affairs

Chernobyl Plant Director Reports Second Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Impact of Kravchuk Directive on Citizenship Pondered *[PRAVDA 12 Jan]* 54
Kravchuk Abolishes Ministry, Dismisses Minister *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 13 Jan]* 54
Officers Union Chairman Defends Defense Minister *[Kiev TV]* 55
Crimean Communists Increase Activity *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 11 Jan]* 55
Donetsk Miners Demand Higher Wages, Threaten Strike *[INTERFAX]* 56
Appeal Made to Kravchuk Over Future in CIS *[Moscow International]* 56
Pro-Russian Rally Calls for CIS Membership *[Kiev International]* 56
Kuzbass Complex Given 900 Million Rubles in Credits *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Political Leader Satisfied With Organization's Work *[INTERFAX]* 57

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Washington To Install 'Hot Line' With Minsk *[BELINFORM]* 58
Military Continues Arms Reduction at Stankovo *[BELINFORM]* 58
Government Resolution Establishes Railway Troops *[BELINFORM]* 58
Government Decrees Pay Increase for Servicemen *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Jan]* 58

Shushkevich Press Conference on PRC Trip Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 58
Economic Planning Committee Refutes Price Rise Rumors *[Minsk Radio]* 59

Moldova

Diplomatic, Official Passports Annulled 15 Jan *[INTERFAX]* 59
Russia To Grant Citizenship to Dniester Residents *[Bucharest DREPTATEA 8 Jan]* 59
Commander on Dniester's Independence *[Bucharest COTIDIANUL 7 Jan]* 60

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Speaks on Situation in Agriculture *[INTERFAX]* 61

Kyrgyzstan

Reports on Tajikistan Border Disturbances Denied *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Diplomatic Ties Established With Tajikistan *[INTERFAX]* 61

Tajikistan

Life 'Returning Back to Normal' in Dushanbe *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Rakhmonov Satisfied With Aid From Central Asia *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Official Claims No Knowledge of Uzbek Military Aid *[INTERFAX]* 62
Refugees Gather on Border To Return From Afghanistan *[INTERFAX]* 63

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Tougher Sanctions on CIS Agreement Violators Advocated *[INTERFAX]* 64
'Intensified' Azerbaijani Offensive Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 64
Border Villages Shelled *[Yerevan Radio]* 64
Presidential Decree Increases Wages, Grants *[INTERFAX]* 64

Azerbaijan

Gambarov Reports Military Data, Parliament's Tasks *[INTERFAX]* 65
Clashes Updated, Another Helicopter Reportedly Downed *[Baku Radio]* 65
Aircraft Shot Down Over Nagorno-Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 65
Guseynov Wants Russian Trade Pact Concluded by 1 Feb *[Radio Rossii]* 65
'Direct Successor' to Communist Party Established *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 65

Georgia

Abkhazia Blames State for Suspended Talks on POWs *[SNARK]* 65
Abkhazian Parliament Head Reportedly Wounded *[Moscow Radio]* 66
Report Refuted *[INTERFAX]* 66
Officials Visiting Israel Discuss Abkhazia *[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ 8 Jan]* 66
Vice Premier Favors Economic Cooperation With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 68
Parliament Demands Withdrawal From Ruble Zone *[INTERFAX]* 68
Shevardnadze Cited on Chernomyrdin Appointment *[KURANTY 14 Jan]* 68
Prime Minister Satisfied With Visit to France *[INTERFAX]* 68

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Government To Dissolve 'Secret Special Service' *[THE BALTIC OBSERVER 24 Dec-5 Jan]* 70
* Bank From Soviet Period Ordered Sold *[Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT 3 Jan]* 70

Foreign Warships May Use Gulf of Finland *[BALTFAX]* 70
Court Clears Freighter Suspected of Arms Transport *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 70

Latvia

Tevzeme Movement Demands Government's Resignation *[BALTFAX]* 71
Agency Prepares for Talks on Russian Troops' Housing *[BALTFAX]* 71
Russian Army Denies Entrance to Bolderaja Port *[BNS]* 71
Cabinet Session Completes Budget Discussion *[BALTFAX]* 71
Diplomatic Relations Established With Moldova *[BALTFAX]* 72

Lithuania

Government Wants Russia To Reduce Fuel Prices *[BALTFAX]* 72
78 Percent of Former Soviet Troops Withdrawn *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
Transport Agreements Reached With Russia *[BALTFAX]* 72
Budget Committee Votes No Confidence in Bank Chairman *[Vilnius Radio]* 72
Opposition Criticizes State Budget for 1993 *[Vilnius Radio]* 73
Parliament Begins To Discuss 1993 State Budget *[BALTFAX]* 73
Economics Minister, IMF Official Discuss Privatization *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 73
Brazauskas Assures Cooperation *[BALTFAX]* 74
Brazauskas Criticizes Lozoraitis Candidacy for President *[Vilnius International]* 74
Gorbachev 'Silent Approval' to '91 Vilnius Events Suggested *[BNS]* 74
Landsbergis Among Representatives to European Council *[BALTFAX]* 74

National Salvation Front To Vote Against START II

OW1401161293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the National Salvation Front [NSF] in the Russian parliament will vote against the ratification of the START-2 Treaty, chairman of the NSF's Political Council Ilya Konstantinov told INTERFAX. He noted that given the current agony of Russia's land forces, aviation and navy, the land-based strategic forces remain the only viable component of the Russian armed forces.

Konstantinov believes that the START-2 Treaty envisages the elimination of 80% of the land-based strategic missiles. In addition to that, according to this treaty, the multiple warheads are to be removed from most of the remaining strategic missiles, saving only mono-units. This means, he said, that Russia will lose its independence for good, while the United States' military potential will be rather large, following the completion of the SDI program. Russia will become absolutely helpless and entirely dependent on the US.

Konstantinov said that "this is absolutely clear not only to the opposition, but also to the majority of the deputies." In view of this, the ratification of the START-2 Treaty will not be easy, he stated.

Democratic Russia Leader Foresees START II Ratification

OW1401160993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The START-2 Treaty will undoubtedly be ratified by the Russian parliament, although not immediately, says Aleksey Surkov, a member of the Democratic Russia faction and a leader of the parliamentary coalition of reforms.

He told INTERFAX that this treaty meets the interests of the world as a whole, and expressed hope that this is not the final treaty, as it only lowers the level of the world's nuclear capability and reserves a possibility for the many-fold elimination of nuclear weapons.

In his opinion, the ratification will not be easy, even though the deputies understand the importance of this document.

He believes that the opposition will try to use the ratification issue for discrediting Yeltsin's policy, particularly on the eve of the April referendum.

'Pro-U.S. Spirit' of START Treaty Criticized

PM1501102593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 6

["Specialist's Opinion" by Candidate of Technical Sciences Colonel P. Belov, reserve: "START II: Groundless Parity"]

[Text] One of the key elements of the polemic that is developing over the newly signed Russia-U.S. Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of the Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) is the assertion in its very preamble that this treaty will help "to create a sound basis for a world order built on democratic values, which will avert the danger of an outbreak of war." Even the treaty's authors agree that this is a debatable premise. It is not for nothing that they have left "the right to withdraw from it if exceptional circumstances (in the opinion of either side—P.B.) jeopardize its higher interests." More serious, however, are the doubts about the expediency of the main provisions and even of the whole treaty, as it does not take account of "the new realities which have changed the political and strategic relationship between the sides."

Indeed, did the authors of START II take into account the new realities and the changes in the treaty partners' status? It is no longer a question of U.S.-USSR rivalry as in the eighties, when the START I Treaty was drawn up. The United States is still prospering—not fully, it is true, but undoubtedly prospering compared with Russia. Whereas we face ruin, and the trend with us is toward complete degradation. Under these conditions is there any point in trying to compare "the creaking cart of our reforms with the shining chariot of an America growing fat," or going on about some kind of parity, showing not so much persistence as obsession?

I think not. This is no means of self-preservation. I am not talking about the final undermining of authority. In tackling questions that are crucial for the country it is surely more appropriate to proceed on the basis not of vague "democratic values" and "higher"—to someone's mind—interests, but of the essential nature of people in general and a healthy instinct for the self-preservation of one's own kin-tribe and state. Hence the chief flaw of the START II Treaty as the basis of a "new world order": It really does ensure a future without fear, only not for everyone but for the United States alone. This is because it deprives Russia and also Ukraine of the SS-18 and SS-24 heavy missiles which "discipline" our partner. At the same time it enables the United States to create a comparatively cheap "nuclear umbrella" of ABM defense against limited strikes and to completely guarantee its own protection and impunity.

Even a preliminary study of the latest treaty shows that it is aimed at destroying the basis of our strategic arms—MIRVed ground-launched ICBM's. These make up approximately 70 percent of our present nuclear potential. Of the warheads that are to be left intact, four-fifths are carried on antediluvian and, therefore,

easily destroyable heavy bombers and submarines. One-fifth are carried on ground-launched missiles, chiefly mobile missiles, which are even less sophisticated and pose a threat to Russia rather than an enemy. I will remind you that we no longer build new bombers and submarines. We do not have the money.

Against a background of the rapid real reduction and limitation of Russian strategic arms, the United States uses "double-entry bookkeeping" for itself in tallying its nuclear weapons. It extends these particular rules not only to its heavy bombers. This approach, together with a number of unjustified concessions on Russia's part, has resulted in our partner's doing away with obsolete nuclear weapon delivery vehicles (the Minuteman II missiles, the Poseidon sea-launched missiles, and the decrepit B-52 bombers). But we are being forced to cut back comparatively new weapons in destroying the majority of missiles and launchers. At the same time we have to eliminate twice as many existing ground launchers and submarines. Worse than that, Articles 3 and 4 of the START II treaty provide for the possibility, in cases of a "threat to higher interests," of a rapid buildup of strategic arms. Just think for yourselves: Will we be able to utilize such an opportunity in our position? Of course not.

Other articles are also couched in a pro-U.S. spirit. Thus, abandoning replacement and destroying weapons platforms as provided for in Article 3, Paragraph 2D, for example, does not rule out the possibility of the United States' increasing the number of Trident II warheads 100-300 percent against the number provided for in the treaty. This is despite the fact that sea-launched missile weapons make up more than half of the total to be retained. This enables the United States to double the combat might of its strategic offensive arms. The threat to peace in the event of an infringement of U.S. higher interests under the treaty is obvious. This is reflected in the fact that Article 4 makes it possible for the United States to build up its heavy bomber force. But Russia cannot take similar advantage because it is being deprived of the better half of its former strategic aircraft force and simply does not have the right number of bombers. This is why the need to divide heavy bombers into carriers of "nuclear" and "nonnuclear" weaponry—provided for in the article—is so questionable.

START II leaves virtually no limitations on sea-launched missiles. The danger of such missiles' being used in a nonnuclear phase of a war—for example, to destroy nuclear power stations or mobile ground-launched missiles—should not be underestimated.

The multivalent interpretation of Article 3, paragraph 2, given the simultaneous pointlessness of many other articles (owing to the vague definition of "exceptional circumstances" and "higher interests" in Article 6), the inappropriate ideologization of the preamble to the START II treaty as well as the hasty, lobbyist approach to preparing it, and also the absence of demands for an end to research on improving ABM defense once the treaty is in place make it possible to doubt the expediency of ratifying the treaty. Agreeing to implement it will not only lose us our military strength but will also finally ruin Russia through the inordinate cost of eliminating nuclear warheads.

Those provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of the treaty which can only be interpreted as "carrots" appear totally unattractive—permission to use Russian missiles to put certain objects into the upper layers of the atmosphere and into space (probably for joint defense against nuclear strikes) and the adoption of a program to give Russia assistance in exchange for the early destruction (two years ahead of schedule) of its defensive potential.

The START II treaty is in fact unacceptable in economic terms because funds are lacking for the safe elimination of stockpiled nuclear weapons. What will be required for the normal "dismantling" of nuclear charges is not the 30 billion rubles mentioned when ratifying the START I Treaty but the creation of 30 new installations to function over a 10-year period in places remote from human habitation...

Even first, incomplete impressions gained from reading the text of START II and the very atmosphere of its hasty conclusion make me wonder about the incentives which guided those who initiated the signing and our president's 48 expert advisers. Did they really seriously believe in a "new world order" on "democratic principles"? I am convinced that neither Russia nor the other countries need to ratify or implement START II.

Article Welcomes Chemical Weapons Convention

PM1401142693 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Golts article: "Chemical Weapons Are Outlawed Now, but it Will Take Years To Get Rid of Them"]

[Text] At a conference specially convened in Paris, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction was opened for signing. (We publish its main provisions on page 3). Representatives of more than 100 countries—including Russia, of course—are expected to sign it. Try as one may to avoid dramatizing it, all the same, this document certainly deserves to be called historic. It imposes a ban on the weapons of mass destruction that were invented and used before other such weapons, weapons of which mankind has lived in fear for almost the whole of this century.

The terrible history of "chemical death" began in April 1915, when the Germans released clouds of chorine over the trenches of France. And even then, during World War I, the barbarous, particularly cruel nature of the use of chemical agents in war was clear. It was no accident that as early as 1925 the Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical agents in the course of hostilities was

signed, a protocol that is still in force to this day. But nearly 70 years has passed and a radical change in the world and in world politics was needed in order that agreement could be reached on the total prohibition of these weapons.

The fact is that in the conditions of constant military confrontation in which the planet's states existed, considerations of military effectiveness and the cheapness of manufacture of chemical weapons always prevailed over morality. At the same time everyone was aware of the immorality of preparing for chemical warfare. And they tried to do it in secret. That is why the problem of chemical arms was always shrouded in suspicion and silence.

Let us be frank, the Soviet Union did its bit too. Joining in the arms race, it created the world's biggest stockpiles of chemical agents. For many years Moscow avoided giving a direct answer to the question of whether it had such weapons at all, which agitated our adversaries in the West, who made no secret of the existence of chemical agents and planned to use them in "limited" and other wars.

But even when it became possible to lift the curtain of secrecy a little and strengthen mutual trust, chemical weapons remained a tough nut for the diplomats and experts conducting talks in Geneva on their prohibition. These weapons had ceased to be the property of a few "elite" countries. They proliferated across the world, becoming the "poor man's atom bomb." Furthermore, it was these weapons that were used in recent regional conflicts. And in order to ban them it was necessary to seek a consensus between dozens of countries, each of which has its own interests and, alas, its own fears regarding particular neighbors.

In order to remove those fears, it was necessary to find solutions to the difficult problems of verification. After all, on the one hand, in renouncing chemical weapons states would like to have firm guarantees that no one else has such weapons. And on the other, they would like to preserve commercial secrets in the event of inspections being carried out at their chemical enterprises. Today solutions have been arrived at which will make it possible to combine rigorous verification of compliance with the agreement, including all forms of inspections, with the preservation of industrial secrets.

Naturally, the fact that several Near East countries are apparently not going to adhere to the convention cannot but cause concern. However, the very fact that these states are in a tiny minority, to say nothing of the sanctions that threaten them, will, in my view, make them renounce chemical weapons.

At the same time we should have no illusions that all the problems have been resolved. The drafting of the convention and its signing—that is only half the job. Those who have stockpiled considerable reserves of chemical agents will have to destroy them over 10 years or so. That is both technically difficult and very expensive. Thus, in the United States, where a program for their destruction has already been drawn up and where the first capacities have even been set up, it is calculated that the expenditure will be in excess of $9 billion. our experts believe that the destruction of the Soviet Union's chemical weapon legacy will cost Russia at least 100 billion rubles. And although the West, acting in its own interest, will apparently give us some assistance, the expenditure will still be very substantial. Apart from economic difficulties, problems of a psychological nature have to be overcome. The inhabitants of the localities where chemical weapon destruction facilities are to be set up will have to be convinced that it is safe.

But while being aware of these and other difficulties associated with the convention's implementation, we must admit honestly that there is no alternative. The destruction of chemical weapons and the total prohibition of their manufacture—this is our duty to the planet's future, to our children.

Preparations for Foreign Ministers' 22 Jan Minsk Meeting

Agenda for Meeting

OW1401193793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A joint session of the working group named "Commonwealth" and the Council of CIS Foreign Ministers takes place January 20 at the CIS headquarters in Minsk. The draft agenda for the January 22 summit itself will be discussed at the meeting.

Interfax can report that, despite the summit being postponed once, its agenda remains almost the same:

1. Declaration on international obligations concerning human rights and basic liberties.
2. Foundation of an Interstate Bank.
3. Decree on the Council of CIS Defence Ministers.
4. Amendments to the Strategic Weapons Agreement.
5. Convention on legal aid and legal relations in civic, family and criminal matters.
6. Regulation of interstate securities market.
7. Draft Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States.
8. Decree on consultative and economic working commission under the Council of CIS Heads of State and Government.
9. Timing and venue of the next meeting of heads of state.
10. Foundation and basic principles of CIS Interstate Court.
11. Measures to bring stability to the situation on state border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Russia's Shumeyko Comments

LD1401105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyampolskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The future of the Commonwealth will depend to a great extent on the results of the upcoming CIS summit in Minsk, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko told reporters on Thursday.

He refused to make any forecasts, but assessed the effectiveness of the CIS economic mechanism as "something between bad and satisfactory."

Shumeyko believes bilateral cooperation in the CIS framework is more promising as it allows to take into consideration the peculiarities of relations between former Soviet republics.

"It is on this basis that a new mechanism is to be designed without making it a uniform one for the whole of the Commonwealth," Shumeyko said.

Korotchenya Gives Preview

PM1401150993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with CIS Working Group Coordinator Ivan Korotchenya by Oleg Stepanenko in Minsk; date not given: "Oh, Let it Not Fail Again"—first paragraph PRAVDA is introduction]

[Text] A session of the Council of CIS Heads of State is to be held in Minsk 22 January. Our correspondent met with Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the Commonwealth working group.

[Stepanenko] Ivan Mikhaylovich, at what stage are the preparations for the meeting?

[Korotchenya] They are virtually complete. All the working group's documents had been prepared for both the first and the second date, which were postponed. Naturally, this has facilitated the work in January...

[Stepanenko] What is it proposed to examine?

[Korotchenya] There is an economic block. It includes the questions of establishing the Interstate Bank, setting up a consultative economic working commission under the Council of Commonwealth Heads of State and Heads of Government, and regulating the Interstate Securities Market. You can see from the wording alone that there is one aim—economic integration.

There is a block of military questions. A statute on the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth States and the making of amendments to the Agreement on Strategic Forces. There is a block of legal questions—on the Declaration on International Commitments in the Sphere of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms and on the Convention on Legal Aid and Legal Relations in Civil, Family, and Criminal Cases. At the request of Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman I. Rakhmonov, a question connected with the development of events in Tajikistan and on measures to stabilize the situation on the section of its state border with Afghanistan has been included.

It is proposed to examine a number of other important and more specific questions in the Council of Heads of Government. They include the questions of an interstate television and radio company, mutual ensuring of the safeguarding of interstate secrets, the creation of the "Radionavigatsiya" interstate consultative council, joint activity in respect of humanitarian aid coming from abroad, and cooperation in the sphere of preventing and eliminating the aftermath of emergency situations of a natural and a technical nature.

[Stepanenko] Ivan Mikhaylovich, a local wit made a pun: After all the compromises, he said, neither the CIS nor even the charter itself will be left.

[Korotchenya] These are all fabrications. The draft charter embodies the documents that have been adopted, starting with Viskuli and Alma-Ata. When I had to deliver an information report at the Interparliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg, I realized that deputies from the various CIS countries were already imbued with the need for such a charter, and no one made any comments on the draft.

[Stepanenko] How do you see the prospects for the CIS?

[Korotchenya] I believe that we will have to rally more closely. The meeting held among the states of Central Asia will give a boost to the strengthening of the Commonwealth.

[Stepanenko] Many people say that they already broke away there and that it only remains to finalize the divorce in Minsk.

[Korotchenya] On the contrary. It seems to me that they have, all the same, taken a different path toward a different goal. For many reasons, they cannot exist separately. The group of states which is called, generally incorrectly, the Slav bloc cannot exist separately, either. I believe that only together can we scramble out of this poverty and this swamp, into which we have all fallen following the breakup of the Union.

[Stepanenko] Will the session not fail this time too?

[Korotchenya] I am convinced that it will not. I would even say that the time of the meeting can no longer be changed. That would elicit a bad negative response from society.

[Stepanenko] Which of the heads of state and government of the CIS countries will participate in the meeting?

[Korotchenya] You know, Shushkevich and Kebich have sent an invitation to them all through the Commonwealth Working Group.

[Stepanenko] Is that the message that has already appeared in the press, which states: "We have the honor to invite the heads of state and government to Minsk together with their spouses, for whom a separate program has been prepared"?

[Korotchenya] Yes. The permanent representatives of the CIS countries have just returned to Minsk after the Christmas vacation. No one has said even a single word about their leaders' refusing to attend the meeting.

Prospects for 'United Turkestan' Viewed

PM1501123393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Article by correspondent Arif Useynov: "Turkestan Is Heart of Turan"]

[Text] A united Turkestan, whose contours appeared on the map after the Tashkent summit, would seem to be able to kindle the almost extinguished idea of the resurrection of the great steppe. Commentaries of this kind are no rarity in the Azerbaijani press, which views the Central Asian changes in geopolitics from the angle of reviving Turkism. Attempts to understand why at the fall meeting in Ankara of the heads of the states of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey the idea of a Turkic confederation was not actually implemented are leading commentators to the most unexpected predictions. It is worth recalling that, on his return from Turkey, Abulfaz Elchibey stated that unification is a matter of time.

Has this time come? The Turkic world reacts instantly to any events in Eurasia. There had not yet been any ITAR-TASS report before a Turkic TV program reported in Baku the sensational news from Tashkent. There was mention of an offhand remark: After all Turkestan is the center of Turan.

A turkish association in the new geopolitical situation since the collapse of one more empire is seen from Baku in a different way—with hope and optimism. The Russian press has left unnoticed the Baku edition of Lev Gumilev's book "Millenium around the Caspian" ["Tysyachiletiye vokrug Kaspiya"] which projects the "passionara stages" of the resurrection of Turkism. Yet the book thoroughly imbued public self-awareness with the idea of a pan-Turkic revival. There is no euphoria, it is true, but the revival of the superethnos around the Caspian mirror is in need of in-depth study and consideration.

Of special interest in this connection is the opinion of President Elchibey—one of the leading ideologues of modern democratic Turkism on the basis of whose ideas he is in fact trying to model Azerbaijani statehood. In an extensive interview with the newspaper AZADLYG the president touches on the Tashkent summit in a brief but conceptual way:

"...The desire of the Muslim states to unit can only be welcomed... The CIS was also born with a statement. And now the states which seem to be the most active members of the CIS are complaining of the lack of a working mechanism, are calling the CIS an organization without a future, and are treating it with distrust. Although the interests of the Central Asian states in the CIS are considerable, under present conditions even for them it is extremely difficult to achieve coordinated common activity. It is particularly difficult to create a commonwealth of countries without the attributes of independent states. Our relations with the leaders of the Central Asian states are very good—I wish them great successes in the difficult matter they have begun..."

Foreign observers in Baku believe, not without justification, that the Azerbaijan political leadership has long been preparing for this disposition of the geopolitical situation which in fact gave rise to the republics' reluctance to join the CIS.

But the Turkic world is as heterogenous as its attitude toward Islamic fundamentalism is varied. The Turkestan states have made their choice—the idea of a pan-Turkic confederation remains unrealized. How long will we have to wait?

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Jan

LD1501065693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 15 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 15 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight today the forthcoming meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in the Kremlin. "The presidents will define the conception of relations between the two countries—whether they will be bilateral or they will be maintain within the CIS framework, as before. What will be the future and the status of the CIS itself? Will it retain its present traditional shape, on which Ukraine insists, or will it be confederation-oriented, which is obviously in line with Russia's intentions? What will be the relations between Russia and Ukraine, if the latter does not sign the CIS charter, while Russia will support it?" NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

"With all the appearance of diplomatic courtesy, economic problems will be settled, following the instructions of Boris Yeltsin. Speaking at a session of the Ukrainian parliament, Leonid Kuchma admitted that Ukraine had lived through an economic war and had lost it," PRAVDA writes on this subject.

"The working out of a detailed plan of the implementation of the anti-crisis programme in the current situation has just been completed," Russian Minister of Economy Andrey Nechayev said in an interview with TRUD. In his opinion, this is a comprehensive document that consists of some 100 items and outlines specific measures, the implementation of which will make a perceptible impact on the whole of the country's economy. The plan will soon be discussed by the government. According to TRUD, about one trillion roubles was instilled into the Russian economy in summer 1992. This, however, did not resolve the problem in some radical way. The money helped industrial enterprises, including loss-making ones, to keep afloat, but, on the whole, the measure brought more harm than good. Nechaev gave the following forecast for 1993: "If the planned measures are put into effect, we expect the situation to develop in the following way: the inertia of the production decline will continue in the first have [as received] of the year, but it will be slowed down. In the second half of the year we expect to come close to our cherished goal, which is stabilisation."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary commission for the budget, plans, taxes and prices. In his opinion, the START-2 treaty signed by Yeltsin and Bush is not taken into account in Russia's defence budget. He believes there is no parliament in the world which would oppose disarmament and the bringing to naught of the nuclear threat. At the same time, such serious measures should be given thorough consideration. Touching upon the financial aid offered by the United States for the implementation of the START-2 treaty, Pochinok pointed out that "we should rely on ourselves, in the first place."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an article by Valentin Fedorov, governor of the Sakhalin region, under the heading "Ideas and People". The article is entitled "Yeltsin: Governor's Opinion of President". Fedorov expressed in the article his own view of the president and the policy pursued by the Russian Government. "Yeltsin is the guarantor of resolute market-oriented transformations in Russia. He is aware of his national mission. Yeltsin regards the undermining of his positions of the leader as the attempt on Russia's right to a free, and some time later prosperous existence, i.e. as an attempt on democracy," Fedorov believes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports a meeting of the collegium of the Russian Defence Ministry which discussed, among other things, the situation with the strategic missile troops.

PRAVDA carries an interview with General Ruslan Aushev, who refused recently to become head of the local administration in Ingushetia, when armed clashes started on the Ossetian-Ingush border. "What kind of authority was it, if the personnel policy was imposed on me, if troops were moved in without my consent. The creation of the Ingush Republic should have been followed at once by the creation of power structures with corresponding prerogatives. As for us, we still have provisional administration or, in other words, anarchy," Aushev said.

PRAVDA writes about the developments connected with the initiative of the singer Galina Vishnevskaya and her husband Mstislav Rostropovich, a violoncellist and conductor. They decided to donate their money to the construction of a children's hospital in Moscow, but were confronted with bribe-taking on such a large scale, that were forced to give up the idea.

Ukrainian President, Delegation Arrive on Visit

LD1501110093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1029 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By Oleg Polovko, ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 January—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Russia on a visit today. The program for Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Moscow includes a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Following the top- level meeting, joint documents will be signed.

Weather Hampers Landing

OW1501122893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1211 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, has arrived in Moscow to negotiate with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The aircraft of the Ukrainian leader managed to land only in the third airport of the capital—"Domodedovo". Ground control did not allow the plane to land in two other airports, "Vnukovo-2" and "Sheremeyevo-1", due to the adverse weather conditions—a strong wind and wet snow. After the landing of Kravchuk's aircraft the airport "Domodedovo" was also closed.

In his interview with INTERFAX correspondents, Vyacheslav Terekhov and Boris Grishchenko, Kravchuk declared on his arrival to Moscow that the issue concerning the deliveries of the Russian oil to Moscow will probably be the most difficult at the negotiations. "The issue about oil is the most important for Ukraine's life," said he.

According to the Ukrainian president, if Boris Yeltsin agrees then they will thoroughly examine three documents on the Black Sea Fleet: On the joint command, the interim period status, and commander of the fleet.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the Russian-Ukrainian summit, military sources in Moscow did not rule out a possibility that a 50:50 formula to divide the Black Sea Fleet might be proposed at the negotiations for the first time.

However, in his interview with INTERFAX Kravchuk expressed a negative attitude towards this idea, with respect to the division of the Black Sea Fleet ships.

Private Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting

LD1501125193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian-Ukrainian talks in the Kremlin began with a private meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk. While greeting his guest, Boris Yeltsin said that the candidacy of the Black Sea Fleet commander has already been approved and agreed upon by both sides. The post goes to Eduard Baltin, head of the Naval Faculty of the General Staff Academy. Once the tete-a-tete meeting is over, the presidents will meet together with their retinues and the talks will be continued with the delegations present.

Accord on Black Sea Fleet Commander

OW1301140893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned from the sources in the Black Sea Fleet HQs [headquarters] that Ukraine and Russia have reached a preliminary accord in regard to the nomination of the commander-in-chief of the Black Sea Joint Naval Forces (Black Sea Fleet). Nominated to this post has been Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin.

This information has been confirmed in Moscow in the circles close to the Russian Naval Command.

Vice Admiral Baltin, Hero of the Soviet Union, submariner, was heading the Department of Naval Strategic Studies at the General Staff Academy of the Russian Armed Forces.

Kuchma Meets Chernomyrdin; Holds News Conference

LD1401163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 14 January—Ukraine must be a nonnuclear power: This is the standpoint of the government and president of the country, Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma announced at a news conference here today, when he met journalists following his talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The head of the Ukrainian Cabinet expressed certainty that the parliament would ratify the START II treaty, but that this would take time because Kiev had only recently joined the negotiation process.

Other than that, he added, there were a number of clauses in the document that Ukraine would have particular difficulty in fulfilling. For example, launch facilities are intended to be destroyed by explosion in such a way that a crater no less than 8 meters deep should be formed. In Kuchma's opinion, a method of this kind would turn the country into a desert.

The prime minister elaborated on Ukraine's position on nuclear warheads, saying that Kiev was not questioning whether or not to help Russia destroy them. Ukraine, he said, was ready to hand over the nuclear warheads, which it considers to be its own property, in exchange for

fuel for nuclear power stations. Kuchma emphasized that mutual understanding with Moscow had been attained in this respect.

The head of the Ukrainian Government was satisfied with the talks with his Russian counterpart. They resolved practically all the questions but there remained those that need to be discussed by the presidents in the course of the meeting planned for Friday. This concerns problems of the external debt and assets of the former USSR. "On this question we absolutely understand each other and it will be finally resolved tomorrow at the meeting of the two presidents," Kuchma said.

Concerning oil supplies, the premier pointed out that this was a big problem both for Kiev and for Moscow. He announced that the Ukraine would take part in working the deposits and in principle it had been decided to set up a "mini-OPEC." Specifically, this problem will be discussed at the meeting of the heads of government of the two countries, which is planned to be held in the near future in Tyumen or Orenburg. The premiers of Belarus and Kazakhstan may join this meeting.

In Kuchma's opinion, it is necessary to restore the two countries' economic links. At today's talks a decision was adopted on clearing accounts between enterprises and setting up a kind of "court of arbitration" to settle disputes.

Replying to a question on the Ukraine's membership in the CIS, the head of the cabinet stressed that he was a supporter of bilateral relations. But, he considers, there is no point in leaving the Commonwealth because as regards Ukraine, like any other CIS state, "no one is interested in it except for its raw materials."

Further Kuchma Remarks

LD1401214893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As result of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations, headed by Prime Ministers Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Chernomyrdin, five documents were signed. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] It is necessary to note that the negotiations progressed quite constructively, and as early as in the afternoon the prime minister of Ukraine gave a news conference, answering foreign correspondents' numerous questions. Leonid Danylovych agreed to personally inform Ukrainians about the results of the negotiations.

[Begin Kuchma recording] We have in principle reached agreement on the first two issues, i.e., the issue of gas has been removed and it has been completed. As far as the issue of oil is concerned, I would like every resident of Ukraine, including the general population and the industrialists and farmers, to clearly understand and proceed from the fact that today Russia is not giving us oil—not just because it does not want to, but simply because a very difficult situation has evolved in Russia too.

As proposed by Viktor Stepanovich, at the beginning of February we will meet either in Tyumen or Orenburg to set up some sort of an OPEC whereby we may not only ask, but in fact take part in this process. [passage omitted]

As for the quota, I would not like to speak about the final settlement of this today, as it were, because our negotiations are still in progress, and this issue will be settled at tomorrow's meeting between the two presidents.

We have reached agreement on mutual payments. Mutual offsetting of payments from enterprises is to be made by 1 February. That is why I want our enterprises to hear that whereas the Russian enterprises owe our enterprises something of the order of around 500 billion, our enterprises owe something of the order of 300 billion [currency not specified], i.e., so far this proportion is favorable. And I am not talking about the internal debt we have in Ukraine.

We also reached agreement on technological credit. We, together with Viktor Stepanovich and the banks, have also to sign this agreement.

The next issue: Taking into account the fact that today many Ukrainian enterprises keep the rubles they earn here in accounts in Russia, we reached agreement with the banks and the government that these accounts have to be closed, and everybody has to work only through commercial banks, so the Russian commercial banks have to open accounts with our banks and vice versa.

If what we reached agreement on is supported by our presidents, I look to the morrow with a little bit of optimism. [end recording]

Kuchma, Chernomyrdin Comment

OW1501051193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, the presidential press secretary, reported that the head of the Ukrainian state intends to depart tomorrow at 8.30 (Kiev time and 9.30 Moscow time) [0630 GMT] for the Russian capital to negotiate with the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin. The press secretary underlined that the Ukrainian President returned from his tour to Israel "satisfied with the results of the visit" and is ready for a serious dialogue in Moscow on a wide spectrum of issues concerning bilateral relations. Shlyaposhnikov called the mission of Leonid Kuchma in Moscow "primarily economic." According to Shlyaposhnikov, the presidents are to discuss a package of the Ukrainian-Russian problems including the problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the atomic energy. However, the press secretary believes that the main issue at the negotiations should be the problem

of the deliveries of the Russian oil to Ukraine and the solution of the issue on the foreign debt. Officials in Kiev assert that the final agenda has not been agreed yet. In particular, Moscow has still not supported Kiev's proposal to conduct a joint press conference of two Presidents on the outcome of the summit.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On Thursday in Moscow the negotiations between L. Kuchma and the Russian Premier V. Chernomyrdin were conducted behind the closed doors about an hour and a half. They signed several documents: on labor activity and social protection of the citizens of Russia and Ukraine working outside the borders of their states; on scientific-technical and economic cooperation in the sphere of atomic energy; on non-commercial payments.

Responding to an INTERFAX correspondent, Viktor Chernomyrdin reported that on Thursday and Friday the governments' experts will continue their work on the drafts of joint agreements which "we shall sign." The main result of the negotiations with Kuchma, the Russian Premier said, is that despite existing problems in relations the parties "agreed to solve them together." He expressed his hope that the problems with other CIS states would be solved the same way.

The head of the Ukrainian cabinet, Leonid Kuchma reported to an INTERFAX correspondent that Moscow and Kiev reached an agreement to conduct mutual accounts between the enterprises before February 1, 1993. He also said that on Chernomyrdin's initiative the premiers of both countries will meet in Tyumen or Orenburg to examine the issue concerning Ukraine's participation in the development of oil producing regions in Russia. In his turn Chernomyrdin underlined that the issue on the deliveries of the Russian fuel and energy to Ukraine concerns "primarily not the prices but the volumes and this is a question of survival." He said that Russia does not intend to limit the oil deliveries to Ukraine and added that the prices for oil will be "beneficial for both countries."

Industrialists Issue Appeal

LD1401163193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The Unions of Industrialists and Businessmen of Russia and Ukraine today addressed a joint appeal to the presidents and premiers of their countries in connection with the intergovernmental talks between Premiers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Leonid Kuchma, currently under way in Moscow, and the upcoming meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, expected to begin on Friday.

On behalf of the heads of enterprises, businessmen and work collectives, the document calls on the leaders of the two countries to display wisdom and farsightedness, and to restore the previous economic relations, guaranteeing the fulfilment of bilateral economic agreements. Otherwise, the appeal stresses, the industrial potentials of Russia and Ukraine are doomed to isolation and ruin.

A joint press conference, held here today at the Union of Industrialists and Businessmen of Russia, was addressed by Arkadiy Volskiy and Ivan Burdak, leaders of the Russian and Ukrainian delegation, who expressed their common opinion that the state of economic relations between the two erstwhile union republics had reached a critical point, after which a complete economic collapse would be inevitable. The representatives of both states shared the view that it was high time for the leaders of the two countries "to stop finding out who is more important" and to take concrete measures to restore the mechanisms of economic integration.

USSR Debt Discussed in 'Runup' to President's Meeting

MK1501101793 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 4

[Marat Salimov report: "Ukraine Wants To Share Not Only Debts"]

[Text] A working meeting between Vice Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin and Viktor Pinzenik took place during the runup to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' Moscow meeting scheduled for 15 January. The talks' main topic was the question of Russia's succession to the USSR's foreign assets and liabilities. According to information from the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow, the visit by Pinzenik, who returned to Kiev 9 January, did not lead to any Russian-Ukrainian accord.

The Ukrainian vice premier's visit to Moscow was linked to the problem of dividing the USSR's foreign debts and assets, a problem that has once again become topical. In accordance with the Russian-Ukrainian protocol signed November 1992 on payments for servicing the Union debt, Ukraine entrusted Russia with paying its share of the debts in return for waiving receipt of payments from the USSR's debtors. It was also stipulated that during 1992 Moscow and Kiev would conclude a separate treaty on succession in relation to the USSR's gold and foreign currency reserves and foreign assets. On 31 December the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry sent the Russian foreign policy department a note pointing out that Ukraine, "having come up against Russia's reluctance to solve this question positively," refuses to recognize Russia as the successor to the former USSR's foreign debt and assets.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY

At present all CIS countries (except Ukraine) have transferred to Russia the right to manage their shares of the former USSR's debts. Ukraine's total share of the Union's foreign debt comes to 16.37 percent.

Observers do not exclude the possibility that Ukraine will return to a policy of settling its debt problems autonomously. This outcome will clearly complicate both Ukraine's and Russia's position at the talks with the "Paris Club" and the IMF. A more preferable option is to reach an accord under which the authority to pay off the sum total of the USSR's debts is recognized as Russia's.

Creditors To Decide

LD1401133993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1250 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Ukraine prefers to pay its share of the former Soviet external debt independently and chairmen of the Paris and London Clubs of Creditors were invited to Moscow to join the Russian-Ukrainian talks on the issue, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

Ukraine was offered three variants of paying the former Soviet debt, he told TASS after a meeting of the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine on Thursday.

The first one envisages that Ukraine pays its share by itself. The second one calls for joint responsibility for the debt payments. The third one is that Russia is responsible for the payments to the creditors in case there is an understanding that "we shall settle our relations with Ukraine in the sphere by bilateral intergovernmental agreements", Shokhin said.

"As we are convinced that the creditors will not accept separate payments of the debts, and as Ukraine thinks for some reason that the (first) variant is acceptable, we have invited the chairmen of the Paris and London Clubs to Moscow. They will arrive tomorrow to join our talks", he added.

Russia is not very particular about any of the variants, according to the deputy prime minister. "If the variant of separate payments is accepted the 16 per cent share of Ukraine will be withdrawn and it will be easier for us", Shokhin said, reiterating that Western creditors will not agree to the variant.

"The variant envisaging joint responsibility is less beneficial for Ukraine and more beneficial for Russia", he said, adding that Western creditors were invited to judge.

Kozyrev Cited on Iraq, Reasons for Early Return

PM1401164593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Russia Supports Allied Action in Iraq"]

[Text] The report on the multinational forces' air strike against Iraqi surface-to-air missile complexes came as no surprise to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. "Our Western partners briefed us on their intentions in advance," he told journalists at Paris airport.

Kozyrev understands the allied action: "Iraq had thrown down another challenge to the international community. Now the question is as follows—either Baghdad is rebuffed or the world will have to live under the law of the jungle, as Saddam Husayn would like. This is unacceptable to Russia."

The Iraq situation was the focus of attention during Kozyrev's talks with U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger and French Foreign Minister Dumas. There were no differences between Moscow and the leading coalition powers.

But it can be confidently predicted that not all political forces in Russia will agree with the Foreign Ministry's position—everyone can recall the trips to Iraq by Baburin and Zhirinovskiy and their statements in support of Husayn. The question of how the parliamentary International Affairs Committee will react to what has happened remains open. Most of its members, while opposing Kozyrev's policy on Yugoslavia, take a more moderate stance on the Iraqi issue—they find Saddam Husayn too odious.

In conclusion, let us mention the rumors that were prompted by Kozyrev's unexpected decision to cut short his visit to Paris. Canceling the meetings that had been planned for Thursday, the minister returned to Moscow at 0300 hours on 14 January. According to Kozyrev this had nothing to do with events in Iraq. "The reason for my return is the need to take part in preparations for the visit by President Kravchuk, who flies into Moscow Friday," the minister told the journalists accompanying him. We have learned that Yeltsin telephoned Kozyrev and asked him to attend the 14 January government session devoted to the Ukrainian president's upcoming visit.

Navy Ships in Gulf Redeployed for Routine Maintenance

LD1501120893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jan—Russian Navy ships participating in the international peacemaking mission in the Persian Gulf are being redeployed to the southeastern Gulf along safe routes to undergo routine maintenance, the Russian Navy press center told ITAR-TASS. Thus, there can be no talk of Russian combat ships participating in the military action taken by the United States and its allies against Iraq. As is known, the large antisubmarine ship Admiral Vinogradov and tanker Boris Butoma were sent to the Persian Gulf at the decision of

the Russian leadership in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution on Iraq. Their movements are being coordinated by Russian Navy Commander Admiral Feliks Gromov.

Iraqi Responsibility for Air Raid Assessed

PM1501111393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Ravil Mustafin report: "Air Strike Against Iraq"]

[Excerpts] On Wednesday evening (0115 Washington time) aircraft from the United States, Britain, and France carried out missile and bombing raids on southern parts of Iraq. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of observers, the limited nature of the operation shows that the United States and its allies do not intend to start a large-scale war against Iraq and have no interest in any further escalation of hostilities. The military action was merely aimed at demonstrating the resolve to ensure that Saddam Husayn scrupulously fulfills all the UN resolutions.

But it cannot yet be said for sure if this aim has been achieved. Stating his agreement to end Iraqi troop incursions into Kuwaiti territory and to permit UN aircraft to fly into Iraq, the Baghdad leader called on his people in a TV appearance to join "another battle in Iraq's holy war." Saddam Husayn called the multinational forces' attack on Iraqi territory the beginning of this battle.

Just why Saddam is aiming to exacerbate relations with the West is as yet unanswered. Some analysts believe that it is being done for domestic consumption—to distract his own people from the deteriorating economic situation. But Saddam's control of his own special services and the Republican Guard continues to be assured. In the opinion of an anchor on France's TF-1 television, Saddam currently has no serious domestic opponents, and his position is further helped by the deep split in the ranks of the Iraqi opposition.

French political scientist G. Salam [name as transliterated] believes that Husayn has been forced into a confrontation with the West out of a need to get the world community's sanctions abolished at all costs. But he is hardly likely to achieve this goal in this way. Quite the reverse. The sanctions may even get stiffer.

Whereas in the West the action by the United States, Britain, and France has on the whole met with understanding and support, the mood is different among the Arabs. "We express feelings of regret and concern about the fact that Iraq—a member of the Arab League—came under attack Wednesday from three Western powers," Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated.

According to reports from Beijing, China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin has expressed regret over the latest deterioration in the Gulf situation. Noting that the "relevant UN Security Council resolutions should be fully and effectively carried out," he stressed that China has always advocated resolving international disputes by peaceful means.

Russia's attitude to the latest deterioration in the Gulf situation was set out in a statement from a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesman. It stresses that Moscow proceeds on the basis that the current action by the coalition forces was carried out in the context of the international community's efforts to ensure observance of the decisions adopted collectively under UN auspices on eliminating the consequences of Iraqi aggression.

Well, it was Saddam Husayn who laid himself and his country open to attack. And yet, in my view, by no means all aspects of the Western allies' actions are unambiguous. Indeed, was military action so necessary in order to force Baghdad to fulfill the UN Security Council resolutions? Were all other means of making the Iraqi leader see reason exhausted? Of course, we need to take Husayn's adventurism, arrogance, and ambition into account, but questions still remain...

Exhortations did not help.

Just as they did not help to persuade a number of other states to carry out other UN resolutions or to take account of the norms of international law. But nobody sends aircraft aloft to make lawbreakers "see reason." You cannot fail to see that the Western leaders' outwardly almost irreproachable phrases in justification of the need for an air strike against Iraq conceal their own interests—for instance, their interest in removing Saddam from power. Having humiliated Saddam for the umpteenth time with a brilliant military action, the West is hardly likely to pacify Baghdad in the future. And this means that new confrontations cannot be ruled out.

At the same time, the United States and its allies have themselves taken responsibility for being the guarantors of the fulfillment of the UN resolutions. The UN Security Council did not give its consent to this action. The United States merely informed the UN Security Council chairman about it.

Faction Leaders Oppose Allied Bombing of Iraq

OW1401171593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It appears that the UN will repeat the history of the League of Nations, a leader of the Russian Unity parliamentary faction, Sergey Baburin, stated, commenting on the United Nations' position on Iraq.

In his opinion, the situation, whereby a group of states, led by the US, presents an ultimatum to another state,

Iraq in this particular case, while the world community turns a blind eye on this, is absolutely inadmissible. "Many countries will realize that membership in the UN does not protect them from violence and lawlessness on the part of those who are stronger," said Baburin.

"If Russia continues to support the UN in this issue, it will alienate not only the Arab world, but also all sober-minded people who will resist the attempts to make ultimatums a norm of life," he added.

In his opinion, Russian servicemen must not be made hostages of "narrow idealistic and political interests of individual states in the Persian Gulf." On Thursday Baburin urged the parliament to ensure the immediate withdrawal of the Russian warships from the Persian Gulf.

Any military solution in our unbalanced world may cause a chain reaction and escalate violence, said Gennadiy Zyuganov, a leader of the patriotic movement and co-chairman of the National Salvation Front. He told Diplomatic Panorama that the action against Iraq will not solve the problem. "The UN Security Council tends to give preference to military methods, although there are other ways of settling conflicts," he said.

He also noted that if the Russian leadership had displayed firmness, many conflicts, including those in Yugoslavia and Iraq, would have been settled peacefully.

This idea was supported by Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Iona Andronov. He told Diplomatic Panorama that although he had no special disposition to the Husayn regime, the events related to Iraq are "someone else's fight, in which we should not interfere." Andronov mentioned that the Russian parliament had adopted a resolution banning the practice of sending Russian servicemen abroad for taking part in military conflicts. "Our citizens must not die for the sake of the interests alien to us," he said in conclusion.

Party Expresses Concern Over Iraq Raids

OW1401172993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The People's Party of Free Russia [PPFR] expressed "deep concern" about the situation following the US military action in Iraq. This party's press service says that although the PPFR does not approve of the Husayn regime, it believes that the US actions consolidate it and help it overcome political problems.

The PPFR wonders, however, whether the US coordinated its actions with the Russian leaders, who will share the responsibility for the consequences then, or the Russian leaders' opinion was disregarded, which casts doubts on the sincerity of the US administration's declarations.

'Tragic' History Seen Repeating Itself in Iraq

PM1401144593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 7

[Yuriy Glukhov "Observer's Opinion": "Impotence of Force"]

[Text] The protracted conflict in the Persian Gulf zone is once again threatening to turn into a military flareup. It is staggering, but everything is returning to the way it was. Two years ago, 17 January 1991, a very great strike was inflicted on Iraq. This was how operation Desert Storm began. You might have thought that peace must follow on from such a big war. What can account for the fact that the confrontation has dragged on so and that tragic history is repeating itself?

Only diplomatic miscalculations and being blinded by the might of force, which is supposedly capable of resolving all problems.

It is obvious from the documents already published that the United States played a double game with Iraq. While verbally criticizing the Baghdad regime, it armed it as a counterweight to Iran. Moreover, it gave Baghdad the impression that it was ready to sacrifice Kuwait to Iraqi ambitions. At any rate, this is the interpretation that can be put, and was put in Baghdad, on the conversation which U.S. Ambassador Glaspie had with Iraqi President S. Husayn shortly before the invasion of Kuwait and which virtually served as a signal for aggression.

This was one of the miscalculations of Washington's diplomacy. Another miscalculation was the torpedoing of the "Primakov mission" and of the results of Iraqi Foreign Minister T. 'Aziz's peace talks in Moscow. Washington was afraid that Moscow would steal victory from it and reap diplomatic laurels. It is obvious now that Washington stole it from itself by rejecting the good offices of others.

The third miscalculation was the disdain for diplomacy in general and the blind confidence that the United States was capable of resolving conflicts only by force and, moreover, by interfering in internal affairs. Incidentally, it is a question not only of the "de-Saddamization" of Iraq but also of the "democratization" of Kuwait. These hegemonist ways and aspirations to leadership, even including the removal of regimes in other countries and the imposition of one's own principles, inevitably give rise to clashes. The history of the Near East and of the endless Arab-Israeli conflict serves as a simple example of the impotence of force and of the need to seek political solutions.

Estonian-Russian Military, Economic Working Group Meets

WS1401131693 Tallinn BNS in English 1853 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan 13, BNS—The Estonian-Russian working parties for military, humanitarian and economic issues are meeting in Nakhabino near Moscow

today, ahead of Thursday's [14 January] plenary session of delegations in the 8th round of bilateral negotiations between the two countries.

The group for humanitarian issues on Wednesday focused on a draft agreement concerning the deportation of each other's citizens illegally staying in the other country. According to Juri Luik, the head of the Estonian delegation, the document would not apply to citizens of third countries now staying in Estonia. The problem of the Kurdish refugees, who arrived in Estonia through Russia, is expected to be settled separately.

The working party for economic issues discusses the topic of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt as well as the 80 million dollars of Estonia's money frozen at the Vneshekonombank in Moscow.

The border groups of the delegations met in Pskov, Russia, last week without reaching any concrete agreements.

The Estonian side at Thursday's plenary session is going to concentrate on setting the deadline for withdrawal of Russian army troops from Estonia.

Luik in this connection said Estonia would not let pull itself into disputes on "less important problems" and leave the main issue hanging.

Talks Encounter 'Certain Difficulties'

OW1401172193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1705 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The discussion of economic agreements has met with "certain difficulties", BALTFAX was been informed by Juri Luik, head of the Estonian delegation at the talks with Russia. The two sides continued to discuss a series of agreements Thursday in the settlement of Nakhabino near Moscow.

Ago Tiiman, an Estonian foreign ministry advisor, said that Russia's own foreign and foreign economic relations ministries had been unable to specify their positions regarding protocols for the free trade agreement between Russia and Estonia. Due to this the signing of the protocols had been postponed for a while, resulting in a delay in the agreement itself coming into effect. Tiiman considered that certain Russian political forces were attempting to tie economic collaboration issues in with human rights issues.

Juri Luik announced that talks on military issues had been a little more positive with agreement on some items. Nevertheless, he said, disagreement on the final deadline for the withdrawal of troops remained, with Estonia insisting on mid-1993 and Russia on the end of 1994.

Luik said that no initialling of agreements could be expected at this stage since the agreements themselves required some final touches, although they were almost ready.

Luik also met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin Thursday. The Estonian diplomat described the meeting as being "frank and constructive." "Not all matters can be resolved at delegation level, and some direct contact with the leaders of Russia's diplomatic department is necessary," he considered.

New Round Begins

OW1401184393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1808 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of talks of the Russian and Estonian state delegations began at the MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] dacha in the village Nakhabino in the suburbs of Moscow. The Russian delegation is headed by special envoy Vasiliy Svirin, his Estonian counterpart being Juri Luik, minister without portfolio in the Estonian government.

BALTFAX has learned from the sources at the Russian MFA that the sides are discussing the problems related to the terms of withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia, as well as economic and humanitarian issues.

The talks are expected to finish on Friday with a joint press conference on their results.

Voronin Comments on Meeting With PRC Leaders

LD1301161493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Fedoruk and Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing, 13 Jan—Sino-Russian relations have entered a new phase of development as a result of the visit to China by President Boris Yeltsin, said Yuriy Voronin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Now that a high-ranking delegation of Russian parliamentarians is in the PRC, he said, a package of documents signed by the Russian leader in Beijing is being made more specific. Yuriy Voronin, leading the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, today met Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council. "We were primarily interested in the progress of economic reform in China, the forms and methods by which they managed to achieve today's results," he pointed out. "I have once more become convinced that an intensification of state action on the development of the economy is essential."

As to practical conclusions regarding Russia, he continued, one must say that the absence of strong state administration at a certain stage, beginning somewhere about mid-1990 to 1991, was the main flaw which led to the current condition of the Russian Federation's economy. "I oppose copying anyone's experience and believe that one of the most essential drawbacks of Russia's former government—to be more precise, Gaydar's concept—was that we tried to adopt either the experience of the International Monetary Fund or to use directly the experience of other countries, even though it may have been positive," the member of the Russian parliament said.

The Chinese have been acting in accordance with their peculiarities, he added. Take, for instance the question of free economic zones. The materials of the First Congress of People's Deputies of Russia provided for the creation of 12 such zones. Two years have passed but nothing has been done. At the same time such zones have been actively developed in China. China's success consists in the fact that it has provided a most-favored-nation status for investments, joint ventures and tax benefits.

In the opinion of Yuriy Voronin, cooperation between Russian and Chinese border areas is a very important issue. China has a lot of experience in this area. "We have to devote special attention to this issue and draw up the appropriate legislative basis," he said. It would also be apt to consider the formation of "joint function zones between our oblasts and the Chinese regions, which would work on the basis of a unified legislative base." This would be a new integration. The Chinese leadership supports this idea. The deputy chairman of the Russian parliament continued: I think the Supreme Soviet will examine this issue in order to lay a whole new foundation to this process. Amur Oblast in particular, which has a huge border with China, could set up "a single unit from the point of view of socioeconomic system integration" with contiguous Chinese regions.

Tomorrow, the Russian parliamentary delegation will meet with National People's Congress committee representatives.

Yeltsin Concerned Over Latvia Human Rights Violations

OW1401184493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1807 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov released a statement on Thursday, reflective of Boris Yeltsin's attitude toward the recent developments in Latvia. The Russian President, the statement says, cannot condone any facts of human rights violations, especially when they are flagrant and perpetrated on a mass scale.

The reports coming from Riga, the statement reads, indicate that a confrontational bent toward Russia is gaining momentum in Latvia. The republic is pursuing the policy of deliberately ostracizing ethnic Russians, thereby infringing on the rights of considerable number of people. There are instances of forcible encroachment on Russian property.

The Latvian parliament is currently discussing a series of legal acts, clearly nationalistic by nature, which are likely to aggravate the situation and "validate" the discriminatory policy toward the Russian nationals. In fact, Latvia is preparing to adjudicate the process of pillaging a substantial share of the Russian population there.

Unpliable discriminatory policy is pursued toward retired military officers and their families. By and large, the Latvian parliament is considering the adoption of the legislation which would limit their employment opportunities and get them thrown out from their apartments.

All these facts contradict not only the elementary norms of humanity with respect to the people who were recently regarded as good neighbors, but to a great number of provisions of international human rights legislation. Remarkably, we are dealing with mass violations of human rights and, essentially, discriminatory state policy pervaded with the ideology of racism, the statement says.

The Russian side, the statement emphasizes, is watching the developments of such trends in Latvia with mounting concern. The Russian President is stating his right to apply all the required international, economic, political and other measures which, in compliance with international law and practice, he would deem necessary to resort to for upholding the lawful rights of the people subject to discrimination.

The Latvian side is bearing full responsibility for the consequences of these unfriendly and discriminatory actions with respect to ethnic Russians, the statement of the Russian president's press secretary concludes.

Humanitarian Aid Cargo Takes Off for Montenegro

LD1401231593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—An Il-76 aircraft took off from Moscow today with a cargo of humanitarian aid for Montenegro. On board were 33 tonnes of canned food, flour, sugar, baby food, and medicine. On the instructions of the Russian Government, the carrying out of the humanitarian mission has been entrusted to Russia's State Committee for Emergency Situations [SCES]. The humanitarian consignment is being accompanied by Sergey Shoygu, chairman of Russia's SCES.

Russia is beginning practical cooperation with the United Nations as part of the organization's worldwide humanitarian operations, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the SCES press service. This February, a Russian transport detachment, which will help to transport international humanitarian aid consignments, will be sent to the former Yugoslavia at the request of the administration of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. It is planned, at the first stage, to send 10 KAMAZ trucks with driving crews there; later, their numbers will be brought up to 50 vehicles. The detachment's costs will be met by the UN.

The chairman of Russia's SCES, who flew to the former Yugoslavia today, will familiarize himself with the situation on the ground and, together with UN representatives, will determine the locations and terms of work of the Russian transport detachment.

Academician Gives Details of Yeltsin-Soros Meeting

PM1401110193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Kim Smirnov report under the "Details" rubric: "What Boris Yeltsin and George Soros Agreed"]

[Text] As people will know, the U.S. benefactor George Soros has allocated $100 million to help scientists in the republics of the former Union. Soros was received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin a few days ago. What specifically was discussed at the meeting?

Academician Vladimir Skulachev, well-known biochemist and chairman of the Soros Foundation's Russian Consultative and Supervisory Council, who took part in the meeting, told IZVESTIYA that the Russian Federation president has given instructions that a decree be prepared to completely exempt the funds granted to our researchers by the foundation from taxes and customs duties so that all the funds can reach specificic individuals without loss.

Yeltsin suggested to Soros that he follow Alfred Nobel's example and set up Soros grants for the most important Russian scientists. Soros said that he had considered this himself and thinks that several dozen Russian scientists could be in receipt of such grants. The principle of building up capital for them via interest earned in banks could be borrowed from the Nobel Committee. But unlike the one-shot Nobel grants, these grants could be for life.

Moscow University will become the main base for the development of the foundation's activity and the place of residence for its staff. Admittedly, the question of where specifically the office and communications will be set up—whether in Moscow State University, the new building of the Russian Academy of Sciences Presidium, or in one of the capital's old mansions—has not yet been decided.

Thousands of applications for grants from the foundation are now being received by various state and academic organs. George Soros and his U.S. and Russian colleagues have their sights on all scientists wishing to receive urgent, one-shot assistance of $500: The terms and standard application form will be published in the most important mass publications; this will most likely happen in early February. The deadline—one month—will be sufficient for people not to miss out on it. For scientists from other cities this will be determined not by the date of receipt, but by the date of dispatch as evidenced by the postmark on the envelope. No "authorization" of any kind to make applications is required.

Kozyakov on Draft U.S. Budget, Military Spending

LD1401215293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] President George Bush has submitted to Congress the draft budget for the next fiscal year beginning on 1 October. The spending of the Pentagon is planned to be only slightly reduced. Vladislav Kozyakov makes these comments:

In the recent past the defense efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union used to be compared. Those days are gone. The idea does not occur because the Soviet Union no longer exists and also there is no longer confrontation between Moscow and Washington. There is no military rivalry or global confrontation. As the Secretary of State designate, Warren Christopher, said at the Senate hearings on Wednesday [13 January], the new administration will have to deal with the new situation after the end of the Cold War, and mentioned in particular as new threats terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and over population and its effect on the environment.

In the new situation the question of future American military spending inevitably arises. Is it necessary for the American people to continue carrying the heavy burden of giant military spending? According to the draft budget, the documents of the Pentagon in the fiscal year for 1994, it is planned to spend 268 billion dollars on military purposes, which is only eight billion less than this year. As for the future, the budget of the Pentagon is even going to be increased by several billion.

It is not simply that spending will remain close to Cold War times. Several military programs designed in the years of global confrontation will also be retained. For example, it is suggested to spend almost four billion on the SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative] program that has already swallowed 28 billion.

Why should Americans be supporting these programs now that there is no global nuclear threat anymore and everyone has admitted this? Could it be the inertia of thinking in the Pentagon?

By the way, the idea of amending the defense policy was suggested during the recent election campaign. Democrats also spoke for greater cuts in defense spending, for more resolute conversion of the defense industry, for the revision of space defense programs and the renunciation of several other arms systems no longer needed today. The message of the Democratic election campaign was putting people first, which means that priority should be given to economic recovery and international trade.

Such a strategy would not only benefit the United States. American economic development gives an impetus to the entire world's economy. The scale of support for reforms in Russia might depend on how Americans manage to curtail their Cold War time military programs and solve their economic problems. After all, everything in the world is interconnected. And that was a commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov.

Shevardnadze's 'Cunning, Dishonest Games' Criticized

PM1401103793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "You Cannot Stop Carnage With Mere Verbiage"]

[Text] We all remember well how Eduard Shevardnadze used to point a warning finger: "A dictatorship threatens us" were the main words in his well-known sentence defending "Gorbachev's democracy." At that time many people still did not understand whether this was oriental cunning, the traitor's instinct, the pressure of dollar accounts in foreign banks, or a sense of dishonesty acquired in the era of the nomenklatura services which determined the inner purpose of the action and conduct at that time of one of the ideologists of the "new political thinking."

Today the chairman of the Georgian parliament, having launched a fratricidal conflict in Abkhazia, continues to play his cunning and dishonest games. First Russia is blamed for all the disasters in the Caucasian region, then the vile actions of the Georgian gunmen against Russia are justified and glossed over. The bloody and aggressive war in Abkhazia is called a "redeployment of Georgian troops within Georgian territory." Then, to the announcement of a possible total mobilization, a letter is sent to the United Nations asking for "blue helmets" to be dispatched to the "Abkhazian region." In the process the ancient concept of "Abkhazia" is denied.

Meanwhile Abkhazians are dying and a fierce and senseless war, horrors, and atrocities are going on. Last Sunday outside the Georgian mission many Muscovites protested the Georgian aggression in Abkhazia.

Georgian Interior Minister Ends Visit to Moscow

OW1401180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Interior Minister Teimuraz Khachishvili has completed his familiarization visit to Moscow and left for Tbilisi on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Georgian Interior Minister was received by Russian Vice Minister Aleksandr Rutskoy. In an interview for INTERFAX, Mr Khachishvili said that during his meeting with Aleksandr Rutskoy, he conveyed to him Eduard Shevardnadze's greetings and wishes that mutual understanding between Georgia and Russia would soon be restored. In the words of the Georgian Interior Minister, Aleksandr Rutskoy assured him of Russia's aspiration to restore good neighborly relations with Georgia. The Russian vice president also said he was confident that the ongoing armed conflict in Abkhazia would be resolved peacefully, Mr Khachishvili noted.

In anticipation of the meeting, the Russian and Georgian interior ministers decided to draft an agreement on cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries.

Yeltsin Japan Trip Hinges on 11 Apr Referendum

PM1401204993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Yeltsin Visit to Tokyo May Go Ahead in Summer"]

[Text] Paris-Moscow—The talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe were one of the main events during Andrey Kozyrev's brief stay in Paris. The heads of the two countries' diplomatic departments were meeting for the second time following the cancellation of President Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo. Their first talks at the UN General Assembly session in New York did not produce any results. Greater hopes were riding on the Paris meeting.

First and foremost, this applies to the Japanese, who initiated the talks. Watanabe's main aim, Russian delegation members believe, was to sound out whether Moscow was ready to go ahead with the visit in the next few months. The ultimate task which the Japanese were setting themselves was to convince the Russian president to visit Tokyo before the "G-7" summit scheduled for July. This, in the Japanese diplomats' opinion, would promote an softening of Tokyo's position on the question of aid for Russian reform, which will be particularly topical in the run-up to the "G-7" summit.

But in Moscow's view these arguments were insufficient—something which was confirmed by the talks in the French capital. No announcement was made about any specific dates for the visit. Sources close to Kozyrev hinted that the matter would most probably remain unresolved until the 11 April referendum. The territorial dispute with Japan is too delicate a problem, and Russian public opinion's reaction to it is sensitive. It is unlikely that on the eve of such an important event for his political future Yeltsin would take steps which could

be interpreted ambiguously in his own country. Whether the Tokyo visit goes ahead at all will largely depend on the referendum result.

Judging by everything, the Japanese realize this too. At any rate, Watanabe did not insist on Yeltsin visiting in the next few months. For his part, the Russian minister hinted that the visit might be organized in the summer. He accepted Watanabe's invitation to visit Tokyo to prepare for the president's tour. The tentative date for Kozyrev's trip is late winter-early spring.

The Russian diplomats who took part in the Paris talks drew attention to a certain softening of Japan's position. Watanabe tried not to highlight the northern territories problem, admitting that it would be impossible to solve the territorial dispute during a single Yeltsin visit.

This statement gives the Russian president a great deal of room for maneuver. Yeltsin gets an important argument in his dispute with the opponents of the visit—the Tokyo trip will in no way mean capitulation and the unconditional return of the islands. Relations between the two countries are not merely about this problem—a sentiment that the Japanese themselves agree with.

Japanese Minister's Viewing of Kurils Criticized

PM1501111193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report: "The Eye Sees..."]

[Text] An ostentatious inspection of the Southern Kuril islands, which at present belong to Russia and which the Japanese regard as their own was the main aim of the two-day trip to Hokkaido begun yesterday by Michihiko Kano, minister of state and chief of the Management Coordination Agency of Japan. He is to view the Khabomai group of islands from Cape Nosyappu [name as transliterated]. He can view the Habomai islands group and then he is to take a look at Kunashir from an observation tower in Bekkaytio [name as transliterated].

Such actions by the leaders of this government department which, inter alia, coordinates the movement to return the South Kuril islands to Japan, have been carried out regularly since the late sixties. They are designed to show the unchanged nature of Tokyo's demands for the transfer of these islands, which are actually called the Japanese "Northern territories here." But Kano's present trip, routine in essence, acquires special piquancy because it coincides with the Paris meeting between the Russian and Japanese foreign ministers—Andrey Kozyrev and Michio Watanabe.

In a talk with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, a staffer from the Management Coordination Agency categorically denied any connection between his chief's trip to a point as close as possible to the South Kurils and the Paris meeting between the two ministers. He said that the agreement on the meeting between Kozyrev and Watanabe was achieved relatively recently, while Kano's trip was planned back in late December. The minister of state, who received his present assignment a month ago, wanted to observe tradition as soon as possible. But he could do this only now, when a relative calm can be observed in Japan's political life in the period between parliamentary sessions and after the New Year festivities.

Ukraine Using Prague as Anti-Russia Propaganda Center

PM1501095593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 3

[Vyacheslav Yelagin report: "Prague Revelations"]

[Text] Certain Ukrainian political and public figures have recently chosen Prague as a kind of propaganda test site for disseminating various statements about Russian-Ukrainian relations. There was particularly intense activity on the anniversary of the Ukrainian referendum on the independence issue. It is a pity, however, that the public pronouncements of the VIP guests from Kiev contained many baseless accusations directed at Russian policy, and the essence and nature of the ties between our countries and peoples were distorted.

Rukh representatives are displaying particular zeal in this regard. The movement's deputy chairman, M. Boychishin, persistently attempted to convince journalists at a news conference that Russia is allegedly putting pressure on Ukraine by exploiting the latter's economic dependence. O. Sopronchuk, member of the Ukrainian educational organization "Prosvita," has expatiated on "the intensive Russification of Ukrainians which began back in 1917 and the deliberate mass settlement of Ukraine by Russians."

Even staffers of the Ukrainian Embassy in Prague are being drawn into this undignified campaign. Remarks by Ukrainian diplomats are characterized by no less prejudice—at times they even go beyond Kiev's official position—nor is the actual ambassador, Roman Lubkivskiy, standing aloof from all this. In an interview with the Bratislava newspaper PRAVDA he claimed that "the psychology of many Russian democrats is marked by the stereotype of a totalitarian regime."

Nevertheless, the ambassador's interview with a correspondent from the Ukrainian-language magazine VYZVOLNYY SHLYAKH, which is published in the FRG, could seemingly serve as a model for his anti-Russian Federation and anti-Russian revelations. This was precisely how this interview was interpreted by a number of political observers in Prague. So what did the Ukrainian diplomat communicate to his readers?

Some Moscow politicians, he believes, cannot conceive of Ukraine occupying any position other than that of a colonial or semicolonial country. Judging by Lubkivskiy's remarks, certain Russian circles are deliberately putting the brakes on the process of forming a Russian state structure, since they are hoping that in the

end they will be able to draw Ukraine into some sort of formation in which Russia will once again be the kingpin. Nor did the ambassador stint on his criticism in condemning "Crimean separatism" and Russia's position over the issue of repaying the former USSR's foreign debt. Needless to say, Russian television was in for a rough ride as well for "providing the Russified Ukrainian population with false information." And this, incidentally, is not a comprehensive list of the unsubstantiated criticism of Russian policy contained in Lubkivskiy's many statements. It is strange that these remarks are coming from the mouth of an official Ukrainian representative whose job requires him not just to foster the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust in interstate relations but also to comply with generally accepted norms.

It would be nice to hope that the incident will go no further, so to speak, because mutual reproaches and insults benefit nobody. After all, our countries and peoples are not only close neighbors but also good friends. They will remain so in the future as well.

Issues Current in Relations With Balts, Poles Aired

PM1501091593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Igor Sukhanov report: "Foreign Policy: Next Steps"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **Baltic Countries**

The steps taken by the Russian leadership to protect the interests of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states are meeting with increasing understanding from the international public. The European Parliament's final document on the EC's agreement with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia expresses "concern at the interethnic tension in the Baltic states." The European Parliament believes that the EC Commission should closely monitor the observance of human rights in the Baltic. During the discussion of the agreement many members of the European Parliament said bluntly that the terms for the acquisition of, say, Estonian citizenship amount to a "discriminatory arsenal against Russians."

Poland

Recent acts of desecration of Soviet soldiers' graves in Poland have seriously clouded Russian-Polish relations. The Russian side has repeatedly told the Polish side that such incidents are intolerable and has demanded the punishment of those responsible. Recently the Polish Foreign Ministry announced the measures that are being taken by the Polish authorities. A special investigations group has detained some people who vandalized gravestones at the Soviet Military Cemetry in November last year. They turned out to be vocational and technical college students and a schoolboy. Criminal proceedings have been instituted. In the Polish side's opinion, this breach of the law was an act of hooliganism and had no political implications. In Legnica Voivodhsip the operational investigation group is continuing its search for 96 brass plates with the personal details of the dead stolen from their gravestones. They are also trying to track down people who desecrated the graves of our soldiers in a public park in Lodz. This burial ground has been cleaned up and the tombstones repaired.

Parliament Ratifies Legal Assistance Treaty With Kyrgyzstan

LD1401203593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The Russian parliament has ratified on Thursday [15 January] a Russian-Kyrgyz Treaty on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Affairs signed in Bishkek on September 14, 1992.

On behalf of the Russian president the Treaty was submitted to deputies of the Russian parliament by Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov. He said that "the document fully complies with international and legal standards and improves the legal status of citizens of both countries." During a debate in parliament it was pointed out that the Treaty is another step forward in the development of civilised interstate relations and that it considerably facilitates the work of judicial agencies of both countries.

The Treaty contains thorough instructions to officials while providing legal aid and performing other functions in court and criminal proceedings. "This document is evidence that Russia and Kyrgyzstan are consistently implementing their commitments envisaged by a treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan," said Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for Interrepublican Relations, Regional Politics and Cooperation.

Churkin Says Intervention in Bosnia Unlikely

LD1401101993 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] According to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, the possibility of military intervention in Bosnia has decreased, whereas hopes for finding a solution to the settlement of the crisis have considerably increased. Churkin was talking to an MTI correspondent. Gabor Izbeki reviews the interview in Moscow.

[Izbeki] We should be pleased if the package of proposals came into being and Karadzic's proposal were supported by the assembly of Bosnian Serbs, too. If it is so, there will be hope that the crisis can completely be put onto

the road to settlement. Churkin, who is in charge of the south Slav crisis on the part of the Russians, said this to MTI.

Churkin proposed that the international community lift partial sanctions as a sign of reward to encourage the Serbs to accept other proposals for settlement. He added: However, it would be early to speak of the total lifting of the sanctions.

The Russian diplomat highly appreciated the mediating role of Vance and Owen. He said he personally talked to the two Western politicians on the phone when the Geneva talks needed moving away from the stalemate threatening with deadlock. According to Churkin, the need for a probable military intervention to change the Serbs' view has decreased. Yet, he said, we cannot talk of a complete victory.

By the way, Russia will continue to use its special relations with Belgrade in order to reach a peaceful solution. In answer to the questions of the Moscow MTI correspondent, Churkin said with cautious optimism that Moscow's concrete steps would depend on the prevailing situation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives Italian Ambassador

LD1301224693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2102 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin received the Italian Ambassador to Moscow Ferdinando Salleo on Wednesday, who delivered a personal message of the Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Kolombo to the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, ITAR-TASS learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

During the talks they discussed some aspects of Russian-Italian relations and international problems.

The Italian ambassador highly assessed the Russian-American Treaty START-2 and expressed the hope that the implementation of the achieved agreements on strategic offensive weapons would be an important stage on the way to the reduction of nuclear stockpiles and strengthening the regime of their non-proliferation.

Shakhray Receives Salleo

PM1401130593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS reports: Meeting With Italian Ambassador"]

[Text] According to information received from the Russian Federation Government apparatus, Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Nationalities Questions and vice premier, has met with Ferdinando Salleo, the Italian ambassador to the Russian Federation.

During their talk there was a discussion of questions of nationalities policy in the Russian Federation, cooperation between Russia and Italy, and guarantees for Italian investments in various regions of the Russian Federation.

Rutskoy Receives Chilean Parliamentary Delegation

LD1301181193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy received on Wednesday a delegation of the Chilean parliament led by Jose Viera Gallo.

During the meeting the sides discussed prospects for the development of bilateral ties, including contacts between highest legislative bodies of the two countries, and possibilities for developing trade and economic relations.

The participants came out for more active use of the potential existing in both countries for the development of cooperation in the sphere of industry, telecommunications and space exploration. Rutskoy noted that a special interdepartmental commission would be established in the near future to develop relations with Latin American countries.

The Russian vice president reminded of Boris Yeltsin's invitation to the Chilean president to pay an official visit to Russia and expressed the hope that the visit might take place this year. The leader of the Chilean delegation said that the question of the Chilean president's visiting Russia was settled and that the visit would take place according to schedule.

During the meeting the Russian vice president answered a number of questions by the Chilean delegation. The questions concerned the process of preparing of a new Russian Constitution and privatisation of state enterprises.

Referring to the process of privatisation of state property in Russia Rutskoy noted that Russia has highly assessed the Chilean experience in privatisation of state enterprises and that the Russian Foreign Ministry was preparing a special agreement to this effect.

Rutskoy on Constitution, Privatization Issues

LD1301224493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy believes that a new Russian Federation constitution is bound to be adopted this year, RIA reports. At his

meeting with a delegation of the Chilean National Congress in Kremlin on Wednesday [13 January], Rutskoy said that the present constitution is at odds with reality. It cannot even be called the supreme legislative document, he said. At the same time the vice president conceded that the work on the adoption of a new basic law for the republic is not proceeding smoothly. He explained this by difficulties in changing the mentality of Russia's population.

Touching upon the new cabinet of ministers, Aleksandr Rutskoy said that with Viktor Chernomyrdin's appointment to the post of prime minister, orientation toward privatization in the interests of the working people has started. At the same time he stressed that the mechanism of privatization is imperfect. In the vice president's words, the class of property owners should be formed from those who work in production, those who labor.

Rutskoy pointed out that the process of privatization is under way, but there is no way a country the size of Russia can be privatized in one year.

Program for Grachev Visit to France Outlined

PM1501122193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 3

[Russian Defense Ministry Press Service report: "Visiting France"]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev's official visit to France begins 17 January. The visit, which continues until 20 January, is planned to include meetings with the top French military leadership, the signing of an agreement on reciprocal contacts in 1993 between the two countries' defense ministries, and visits to military units and subunits, including the air base where the "Normandie-Neman" squadron is stationed.

Indifference to Palestinian Deportees 'Drama' Scored

PM1401150193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Special correspondent Yuriy Glukhov report: "Someone Else's Suffering: How Long Will We Be Indifferent to the Drama of Deported Palestinians?]

[Excerpts] Beirut, Moscow—Absorbed by our own problems (or by politicking) we are becoming increasingly indifferent to other people's suffering. The drama of the 415 Palestinians expelled from their homes and deported by the Israelis to Lebanon, a drama worrying the whole world, continues to rank as secondary in the news in our mass media.

Russia's rights protection organizations, which are renowned as champions of human rights, are keeping silent, even though the figure of silence is hardly seemly in this instance. Hundreds of people have been simultaneously expelled from their homeland without trial or due process of law. They were deported simply on suspicion of belonging to the extremist Muslim religious organization Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. It is paradoxical but even the Israelis themselves recognize that at least 10 of the deportees have been expelled in error. (Clearly, presumption of innocence is still one of those categories yet to be recognized in democratic Israel).

The defenders of our rights are not embarrassed by the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin gave the order to shoot at an unarmed crowd of deportees who tried to return home. They are not bothered by the fact that the expelled Palestinians have effectively been taken from one Israeli zone of occupation to another, since southern Lebanon is under the control of the Israelis, or by the fact that they were essentially kept in a concentration camp, trapped between the positions of the Israeli forces and the Lebanese forces.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also made do with an official statement which has even less bite than the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's actions. It is strange that neither the United States nor Russia suggested, for example, sending UN troops or multinational forces to the Israeli-occupied Palestinian lands to maintain order there. After all, the Israelis clearly are not coping with the situation and the replacement of the occupation forces would be the first step toward the restoration of peace. The astonishing inertia on this occasion contrasts with the extraordinary activeness when it comes to Yugoslavia, Somalia, or Iraq, for example.

It is strange that neither the United States nor Russia have spoken up for Lebanon. The flagrant violation of that country's sovereignty threatens to wreck the process of national reconciliation that has been established with such difficulty. Israel's actions could derail the recently created Lebanese Government headed by Rafiq al-Hariri. It would seem that al-Hariri, a Saudi millionaire of Lebanese origin, is the kind of political figure who most suits everyone—the United States, the West, and pro-Western Arab circles. But apparently both Israel and the United States are far more interested in the continuation of the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Indifference to someone else's suffering merely encourages acts of desperation and acts of terror. In the foreign policy sphere it betokens increasingly cold relations with the Arabs for Russia and other countries of the former Union. It will also result in indifference to our problems and our woes.

Western Group of Forces Commander Burlakov Interviewed

MK1401162193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 pp 1,4

["Exclusive" interview with Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of

Forces, by Aleksandr Polotskiy in Berlin; date not given: "German Problems of Russian Troops and How Western Group of Forces Commander in Chief Colonel General Matvey Burlakov Views Them"]

[Text] [Polotskiy] What are the main problems facing the command of the Western Group of Forces [WGF] in Germany in connection with the accord reached by President Yeltsin and Chancellor Kohl to cut by four months the schedule for bringing Russian troops home from the FRG?

[Burlakov] The new political decisions adopted by the two countries' supreme leadership have indeed set us new tasks and, to be blunt, have aggravated the old problems. For instance, we will have to expand the previously agreed and ratified schedule for the preparation and withdrawal of the troops, but that is certainly not the most difficult element. What is harder is to withdraw—within an even tighter period—the remaining 1 million tonnes of so-called WGF material reserves (food, fuel and lubricants, clothing and related gear, engineering and technical equipment, etc). Specialists know that a great deal of people and a great deal of money are needed to accomplish this because it is not just a matter of loading, unloading, and transportation—everything has to be prepared for shipment first, and there are, incidentally, fewer and fewer people to do it. I have dwelt specially on this because the problem of removing military hardware and arms is, in my view, simpler to resolve. People too have to be hastily prepared for withdrawal now—since the deadlines have been brought forward—but people are not toys or boxes of cartridges. People have families, they were counting on a particular schedule....

[Polotskiy] What do you regard as "old" problems?

[Burlakov] Primarily the provision of facilities for our troops back home. In 1991 and 1992 we withdrew almost 55,000 families of servicemen to the territory of Russia and the other Commonwealth states. And 30,000 families have found themselves without apartments! Some 60 percent of personnel, hardware, and arms in the last two years! Let us now take a look at the situation as regards the provision of facilities: Some 36,000 apartments are to be constructed for 7.8 billion deutsche marks [DM]. By the end of 1992, according to pledges, roughly 8,000 apartments should have been commissioned, that is, just over 20 percent. Thus, the rate of withdrawal is three times that of the rate of provision of facilities. I do not think that is the most civilized means of effecting a withdrawal when people leave good-quality military camps and are often sent nowhere, to areas where there is nothing.... I am sure that we will sort out our internal problems ourselves: We will tighten up the schedules, organize the removal of military-technical property as best we can, and explain to people in human terms the need to revise the schedules, but it is extremely hard for us to influence things that are as it were beyond the jurisdiction of the WGF. I am primarily referring to the provision of facilities for the troops at home. I would therefore like to ask the Russian leadership and all the heads of administrations in oblasts and krays scheduled to receive the units and formations to take a more intensive part in providing facilities for our Russian people! Of course, I also very much hope that the FRG leadership, the republic's financial departments, and the firms who are building military camps for us will understand our position and make haste with funding and with construction, particularly construction of housing....

[Polotskiy] It is not only German firms that are building housing for the Russian military with German money....

[Burlakov] Germans are indeed in the minority here—owing to their higher production costs—and Finns, Turks, Yugoslavs, and Austrians have often won the tender for orders because their work is cheaper and faster....

[Polotskiy] ...But not better? "We are not rich enough to buy cheap things." Are you pleased with the quality of the foreign firms' work?

[Burlakov] Not always. Regrettably, in a number of cases everything outwardly looks wonderful at first glance, but once people have lived in the new buildings for some time—and this has happened in Belarus—it becomes clear that the quality of the homes leaves something to be desired. Perhaps it is incidentally due to this frenetic pace that fungus has appeared on apartment walls and the parquet floors have lifted. It is evidently necessary to supervise foreign firms more rigorously so as to ensure that the quality of their work is indeed high and matches the financial and other expenditure that we Russian citizens are incurring.

[Polotskiy] As far as I am aware, the WGF has a bilateral agreement with Uzbekistan and will obtain 5,000 draftees from there, while Russia will not be sending a single one. Will it be possible to speak about the WGF in the future as a strong component of the Russian Army?

[Burlakov] No, there are no special bilateral ties between the WGF and Uzbekistan. But there is common sense and mutual interest. What is the crux of the matter? Uzbekistan has to train enlisted men and NCO's for its emergent army, and we have tremendous experience of this work. On the other hand, we are tremendously short of manpower to resolve our tasks of withdrawing the group from Germany. That is coincidence of interests for you. But I am nevertheless categorically opposed to the suggestions that we become an Uzbek or any other kind of army because Russian professional officers are the basis of the WGF. Take specific facts and figures: Some 70 percent of our officer corps and roughly 50 percent of our warrant officers are Russian citizens. Furthermore, we have today contracted more than 6,000 young people, most of whom are once again from Russia, as enlisted men and NCO's. So the professional core of the WGF is and will be Russian.

[Polotskiy] Evidently, the question of swearing an oath will still arise?

[Burlakov] It has already done so, and we discussed it during Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's recent visit to the WGF. It has been decided that Russian servicemen will swear a military oath of loyalty to Russia, while representatives of the other independent states—our immediate neighbors—will swear an oath to the CIS.

[Polotskiy] Incidentally, the Russian defense minister noted that fewer crimes are committed in the WGF than elsewhere. However, crimes do nonetheless take place. Which of these cause you the greatest revulsion as an individual?

[Burlakov] In the last two years we have succeeded in steadily reducing the number of crimes and accidents within the WGF—by roughly 30 percent a year. But people are still dying. Young, healthy, educated people. We could certainly say with pride that compared with last year there have been one-third fewer fatal accidents, but...no high-sounding figures provide any comfort here. A tragedy is still a tragedy. Particularly for the parents, the comrades in arms, and the commander. By the strictest criteria this also represents a tragedy for all society, which immediately is a whole individual poorer. There are various causes of death. It is primarily the chiefs who are to blame. We are talking about breaches of safety measures during combat training and during servicing of equipment and arms. And also about personal lack of discipline.... A serviceman plays with a loaded assault rifle at his post and either fatally injures himself or his comrade at another post. Road traffic accidents often end fatally. The German roads only just seemed to have started becoming icy and literally within a few days we were investigating a tragic accident: An enlisted man and an officer suffered a fatal crash on an icy road, blinded by an oncoming vehicle....

Cases of theft and misappropriation also fill me with revulsion—things are stolen from our people and the Germans. Needless to say, this constitutes a different kind of "tragedy"—lack of discipline, insolence, and reliance on crimes going unpunished. This year, for instance, two officers from a group directorate faked documents and made arrangements with a German firm in an attempt to sell shell cases for scrap metal. Admittedly, the military prosecutor's office intervened in time and thwarted the plans of these businessmen. Here is another example. The head of one division's clothing service, once again with the Germans' "help," tried to sell fashionable camouflage gear at the local markets. He had, admittedly, succeeded in selling some of the stuff, but the upshot was similar to the above....

Most examples of this kind of "enterprise" crop up in the trade directorate. The head of Dresden Garrison's trade department, for instance, signed German suppliers' invoices for the receipt of goods which would subsequently fail to show up in our supply depots and which would be sold at higher prices on the domestic market. The sharing out of the spoils would be a matter of sorting out the details.... Or else a store director by the good Russian name of Stepanov would load a whole vehicle with alcohol and try to sell it to the Germans, but our prosecutor's office and the local police were on the watch.... By and large you get the impression that during their time in Germany these people are trying to steal things to last them more than a lifetime....

[Polotskiy] But in Russia too there are no signs of a particular boom in ethics and morals....

[Burlakov] I agree. We are part of our country and we suffer from the same ailments as it does, ailments which—it is my personal depressing prediction—tend to become exacerbated here. In my view, at the moment the withdrawal schedule is reduced and personnel are replaced, there may even be an outburst, an increase in the number of disgraceful thefts and misappropriations—by dishonest people trying to get rich quick at any price.

[Polotskiy] Excuse me for asking you to talk about the "fly in the ointment." But, in your view, what are the "eternal" ideals and incentives that attract young people to military schools? What has changed here in the period since the breakup of the USSR and the reemergence of Russia?

[Burlakov] Thankfully, there is no more of the totally oppressive ideologization of the Army, which was what in my view destroyed the moral foundations of officers' service for the good of the fatherland. The Russian Army today is not subordinate to any party but serves the people in accordance with the country's Constitution. But something that we cannot eradicate is elementary leveling, something that officers opposed before the democratic changes started. Take two company commanders on the same pay: One runs a facility that is a pleasure to behold, while the other's is on its last legs. For some reason we still cannot provide material incentives for people with higher vocational training and firmly curb those who do not work or at least produce poor results.

Apart from the still prevalent leveling, there is another very important reason for the difficult, slow revival of Russia's best officer traditions—their truly beggarly material and financial position. It is hard to revive nobility, honor, and dignity when a young Russian lieutenant or captain can only just feed his wife and two children with his wages, and buying something for a beautiful young wife is out of the question. That is why educated people in their prime are leaving the Army—for a firm, a joint venture, or a cooperative; they go for jobs where they are offered 5,000-10,000 more. I consider it thoughtless to give this up as a bad job and say that the best officers will stick around. How long will they stick around? Maybe the best ones too will leave in the end? Then who will be left? No, I believe that a Russian officer should have a level of pay sufficient to provide food, theater or concert tickets, fine clothes for his wife and children, books, and recreational activities. In short, he should be paid enough to lead a life worthy

of a defender of the fatherland because he voluntarily takes on difficulties for his homeland's sake and swears so to do.

[Polotskiy] What, as a professional military man, is your opinion of Russia's current position "encircled by fronts," having in mind the so-called "hot spots" on the perimeter of the former USSR?

[Burlakov] Let me be blunt and say to you that we military men are indignant at the lack of ethics shown by present-day politicians in their fight for power. We are also very worried by the involvement of Russian servicemen and troop units in this bloodshed and slaughter. Why are young people—officers, soldiers, often caught between two opposing sides—dying? They come under fire from both sides! It looks as though soldiers and officers do not themselves have protection in this bloody fighting. On behalf of the military I ask all politicians—great and small—to ponder their role today. I am sure that at some time history will call them most rigorously to account. But maybe they may be called to account even sooner by the bereaved mothers. The Russian Supreme Soviet needs to take very resolute steps in this matter. I want to stress that never before have the military themselves decided to begin hostilites and open fire. We have always been and will always be in the hands of politicians, who impel us onward or use us to plug some gaps that have arisen out of their own mistakes.

[Polotskiy] You have plenty of dealings with the former "potential adversary"—the leaders and top officers of the NATO troops and the Bundeswehr. What is the nature of these contacts? How has your personal impression of these armies and the people who serve in them changed over the last few years?

[Burlakov] I am of course delighted that I am "spearheading" the new relations between Russian and Western military leaders. "Spearheading" because I am closer to everyone here and have more frequent meetings with our NATO and Bundeswehr partners, with whom we are finding and developing means of cooperation. Personal contacts are, of course, of tremendous importance—FRG Defense Minister Ruehe has visited our troops, and we previously had two meetings with Stoltenberg. We have good contacts with Naumann, the Bundeswehr's inspector general, and with the commander of the Bundeswehr's "Eastern" Corps and territorial command—formerly Shenbom, now Shefen [names as transliterated]. NATO Secretary General Woerner and his wife recently visited us in Wuensdorf. We have had beneficial contacts with Shezaren [name as transliterated], commander in chief of the French Armed Forces in the FRG.

Naturally, this practice is not only for the "top brass" now—the main thing is that human and professional rapprochement is taking place at local level between the commanders of units and formations and the commanders of neighboring Bundeswehr units. Our brigade commander maintains close contacts with the commanders of the U.S., British, and French brigades in Berlin. In our group we have, for instance, held a large number of "open days," during which tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers and officers from the Bundeswehr and other armies visited our units. What is more, we take part in joint conferences and seminars, and Russian officers and generals prepare reports. I, for instance, delivered a report at the Bundeswehr's university in Munich and addressed students at the Academy of Social Sciences in Berlin. And these were by no means isolated occurrences.

I do not want to be reproached for being overenthusiastic, because there is still some restraint in our relations, and to say that we are close would evidently not be entirely correct; but rapprochement is under way, and in all areas, moreover. And that can only benefit our armies and peoples.

I will not venture to pass judgment on the professional training of the troop units of the Bundeswehr and the other armies stationed in Germany—I have not seen them in action—but I do have a high opinion of the qualifications of the generals with whom I have had dealings. Without that kind of experience you cannot feel that you are a citizen of a united Europe. At best you can only be a member of another "camp."

Ministry Official Comments on Weapons Exports

OW1501083593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will continue to export weapons since arms trade is "without a doubt profitable" for the republic, the head of the department for military cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Valeriy Mironov told "INTERFAX."

Mr. Mironov said the republic will continue to cooperate with Middle Eastern nations not affected by UN sanctions. He said the United Arab Emirates, recently visited by a Russian military delegation, have shown "significant interest" in purchasing Russian weapons. The expert said the United Arab Emirates would like to "diversify their weapons sources" and expressed readiness to "get better acquainted with" Russian anti-aircraft defense systems."

Mr. Mironov said new sales markets in Southeast Asia, where Russia can sell equipment for aviation, anti-aircraft systems and ground troops, are of paramount interest to Russia.

He said some former Soviet republics, including Uzbekistan, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, have addressed Russia with requests to buy weapons.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin, Officials Discuss Referendum Preparations

LD1401132393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin met the leaders of the Supreme Soviet and the government of the republic on Wednesday [13 January]. According to the presidential press service, taking part in it were the heads of parliament and the government and their deputies. They discussed coordination of preparations and holding on 15 April of a referendum on the main provisions of the new constitution and the drafting of referendum questions that have been agreed upon in advance.

The issue of a roundtable was raised to harmonize various political trends and approaches, proceeding from Russia's vital interests in the democratic reforming of society and to work out agreed recommendations concerning the program of anti-crisis measures within the framework of the country's ongoing economic reform.

The president discussed with the leaders of the parliament and the government the question of ratifying the START-2 treaty. The composition of Russia's delegation to the talks with Tatarstan was examined at the meeting.

Yeltsin Comments Noted

LD1401144693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—Russian President Boris Yeltsin believes that the fate of Russia depends on the referendum on the basic points of the Constitution, planned for 11 April, and it must not be lost. He stressed this point more than once during the course of a meeting in the Kremlin today with representatives of the "Democratic Choice" bloc of reform supporters.

During discussion on the outcome of the referendum, Sergey Yushenkov, a participant in the meeting, explained to journalists that it was a question, first and foremost, "not of a defeat in the sense of ideology and words, but that the population should come to the polls and that the will of the people should be objectively expressed."

Constitutional Commission Meets on Referendum

PM1401120793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Linkov: "Russians' Difficult Choice"]

[Text] The date of 11 April 1993 may go down in Russian history as both joyful and sad. It will all depend on the results of the referendum on the main provisions of the new Russian Federation constitution, when voters will either approve it or refuse to take part in the vote or vote against it. What is expected in the latter case? In the opinion of N. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission, who opened the Constitutional Commission's working session in the White House 12 January, there will then be an obvious crisis of power. All those who embody power will have to go. The very existence of Russia as a single state will be in doubt.

The forecast is a very gloomy one, there's no denying. But to prevent this from happening there was talk of preparing the fundamental provisions of the new Constitution. Their foundation already exists, actually. They have been prepared by the commission's working group and were proposed by its members. This document contains 10 theses each of which concentrates the thrust of the new Fundamental Law. Presenting it, O. Rumyantsev, responsible secretary of the Constitutional Commission, does not regard them as a final option. It is possible and necessary to remove some things and make others more specific. But this must be done in a very short space of time since it will still be necessary to agree on them with the Constitutional Court, the president, and the subjects of the federation and it is desirable to hold a "roundtable" of representatives of all political forces. O. Rumyantsev suggested switching the date of the referendum from April to June. He expressed himself in favor of ahead of schedule elections of representative and executive power.

The Constitutional Commission's working session took place in a far from inoffensive atmosphere. Above all sharp criticism was leveled at the draft of the fundamental provisions of the new Constitution as containing too many contradictions and obscurities which ordinary voters will simply not understand. The opinions of the session's participants were also diametrically opposed over the date for the referendum. So far there is no unanimous decision as to who should adopt the new Constitution: the Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet, the Constituent Assembly, or someone else? Representatives of the republics within the Russian Federation voiced a negative attitude, believing that as before little account is being taken of their interests, that the proposals they made for the draft of the new Constitution are being rejected, and the Federation Treaty is being ignored.

The commission members also had a common concern—the holding of the future referendum must not be turned into a field of political battles, which could only cause the intensification of confrontation in society and split it. During the many hours of discussion it was nonetheless planned, alongside the existing draft of the fundamental provisions, to begin work on alternative options. The working group which has been created will hen generalize and produce a finished single draft with precise, clear theses. Coordinated with all branches of power and discussed by the participants in the political "roundtable," it should appear a month before 11 April.

The date of the referendum has been approved by the Congress of People's Deputies and it alone has the right to change it.

The session of the Constitutional Commission has confirmed yet again the forecast that the political spring may be a hot one. Parties and movements of the most diverse orientations will try to use the referendum for their own purposes. Alternative options for the draft Constitution will again be put forward. This will probably be discussed in St. Petersburg, where in the next few days G. Popov and A. Sobchak, the leaders of the Democratic Reforms Movement, will hold a conference. Nor will the Communists miss the chance to make themselves heard. Moreover, unless agreement is reached with the Russian president, he has the right to submit for discussion is own option for the provisions of the new Constitution.

There are three months left until the referendum. Will the parliament and the Constitutional commission be able to prevent passions from running high in society and will they be able in this time to elaborate theses for the new Constitution which will show voters precisely and clearly Russia's future system? One would like them to.

Popov Calls For Constituent Congress To Adopt Constitution

LD1501020293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian Democratic Reform Movement wants all democratic forces to unite and form a single bloc. It also wants a constituent assembly to be convened. Its purpose would be to adopt a new constitution. The movement is, however, against an early dissolution of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, said Gavriil Popov, the movement's chairman, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Popov's view is that it is neither the Congress, nor the parliament, but only a constituent assembly that has the right to adopt a new constitution. Arguing for his stance, Popov said it was not logical for one of the existing branches of power to adopt the country's fundamental law—a conflict is inherent in such a procedure. It is Popov's view that the future constituent assembly can be either elected or appointed. However, said Popov, no less than 50 percent of the members should to be elected.

Syrovatko Comments on Referendum Issues

LD1401221093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1616 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—The referendum on the new Russian Federation Constitution should not include too many issues. An "overload" could lead to the failure of the referendum. That is the view of Vitaliy Syrovatko, the new secretary of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. He was elected last Monday to this long-vacant position.

Vitaliy Syrovatko, speaking at his first news conference, held today, said that his main task is the better coordination of the work of parliamentary committees and commissions. According to him, special attention should be paid to the revision of the outdated provisions of the laws htat have already been adopted.

Article Views Purpose of Referendum

PM1401105193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Candidate of Historical Sciences Andrey Zhukov and political scientist Azhdar Kurtov: "Referendum Is Not Magic Wand of Democracy"]

[Excerpts] As we know, the all-Russian referendum on questions of the Constitution is to be held 11 April. Certain political groupings, mainly in Moscow, attach very great importance to this act. They see the referendum, on the one hand, as a kind of magic wand which only has to be waved to ensure the true expression of the people's will on questions of state and public life and as the supreme form of direct rule by the people.

But on the other hand deliberately or not this real element of democracy is being used as a tool for imposing on all society the political will of individual structures. Unfortunately, the broad public is still not always aware that a referendum is not a panacea, but merely one component in the system of democracy.

Of course, this instrument of the democratic process can correct political decisions. But world experience shows that a referendum can be used successfully only in those states where diverse democratic institutions were formed long ago and have passed the test of time and where a peaceful, calm political atmosphere has taken shape. [passage omitted]

In the past two years in the states which once made up a single whole—the USSR - there have been dozens of referendums on the most diverse issues. There is a possibility of drawing some conclusions, but they are not always reassuring. First, by their lack of precision the formulations of the referendums' questions have made it possible afterward to interpret in different ways the results which have been obtained (depending on the opportunist interests of various political groupings). Second, the majority of referendums which have been held have not led to the solution of peaceful settlement of those problems which were the subject of the ballot and often have had the opposite effect, merely pouring oil on the fire. An example is the referendum on the fate of the Union and Crimea. Third, it is obvious that a tendency toward using the referendum procedure as justification for subsequent strong-arm power-based pressure in the name of the "will of the people."

In general it must be said that the referendum in the countries of the CIS and nearby foreign parts is now being transformed into a secondary means of pursuing a political course by party groupings and individual leaders. [passage omitted]

It is well known that any state power, including that created by the elected democratic system, cannot and never will fully reflect the will and interests of all citizens. But even a referendum cannot reflect absolutely reliably the will of the entire people. In a referendum the will of the voter is restricted to answering "yes" or "no" to the question put on the ballot slip and that means there is no opportunity to express a compromise viewpoint. If it is a case of voting on a draft law (especially on the provisions of the Constitution) then the voters who do not agree with a particular point of the lengthy draft law cannot make changes to it and will therefore be obliged to vote against the proposal as a whole.

There is one more danger. Our society is experiencing a deepening crisis in the economy and in politics. And a considerable proportion of the Russian population could see the forthcoming referendum in April 1993 as an opportunity to express their negative attitude toward all branches of power simultaneously.

It may also be expected that the canvassing campaign before the referendum will be used by various forces to accumulate political capital for the future power struggle, not necessarily at elections. The situation right now is such that the question of the actual provisions of the new Russian Constitution could in general be relegated to the background and the debates which have developed will be based on specific problems of our deteriorating life. Under the conditions when the results of the referendum are hard to predict, society can expect a new spiral of confrontation. Probably under conditions of such powerful political unsteadiness it would be more sensible either to renounce holding the referendum at all or, if it is held, then simply to ask the Russian Federation population whether they agree that all branches of power in the country should be left in place until the end of their term of office or whether everyone should be reelected immediately.

Implications of Failure Viewed

PM1501104193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by Yuriy Feofanov: "The April Referendum Could Create a Legal Power, But It Could Also Split Russia"]

[Text] The referendum scheduled for 11 April appears to have roused political forces and power structures as well. The question now is as follows: What will happen if the people do not turn out for the referendum?

At the "Democratic Choice" assembly the now celebrated lawyer Andrey Makarov addressed the audience, saying: If the people do not turn out it will mean that all the authorities in Russia have been deprived of their powers and new elections must be held immediately. Are there any legal grounds at all for this statement? Or, on the lips of a lawyer, is it a metaphor? At the 12 January Constitutional Commission session a very official figure, Nikolay Ryabov, deputy speaker of the Supreme Soviet and chairman of the commission, effectively said the same thing:

"The upcoming referendum is historic," he said (I am citing him from my recording). "The destiny of the state will be decided at it. That is why the wording of the referendum is so important. It must first and foremost suit the voters; second, the members of the Federation; and only then the authorities themselves. God forbid that it should be the other way round. The failure of the referendum would result in a public crisis for all the authorities and their departure from the political arena. Then you would only have the Constituent Assembly, and that would mean the breakup of the Federation."

This is a serious preface to a debate on the organization of the 11 April plebiscite. Am I the only one to wonder whether our politicians are playing too dangerous a game by deciding to turn to the people to solve problems which require patient juridical indagation, the reaching of agreements, and the smoothing over of differences? It is said: "Only in a bazaar is one assailed with the question 'yes' or 'no'." I hope I am not insulting the referendum, as the most democratic way of expressing the people's will, by comparing it to a "bazaar." But what is needed for 100 million people is a "bazaar" option: A problem to which there will be a clear and unequivocal "yes or no," "for or against" answer. Can an acceptable formula be found? Are the "sides" not gambling with their destiny? Indeed, according to the Law on the Referendum, its decisions "possess supreme juridical force, they require no approval, and are binding for the entire territory" (Article 1). Would it not be better to switch the referendum to a later date? Anyway, maybe it is not too late to abandon it? These questions surfaced both at the Constitutional Commission session and in items that have appeared in the press. The commission gave an unambiguous reply: There is a Seventh Congress decision and no one has the right to revoke it.

Nonetheless, what will we be putting "to the people"? The working group's "Basic Provisions of a New Constitution" comprise 10 points, occupy three pages of text, and contain, on the one hand, provisions that are so self-evident that it is not worth voting ("Russia is a sovereign state"), and, on the other hand, provisions that are too complicated and contradictory—on the state's social obligations, for example. Nearly all those who participated in the debate, including Oleg Rumyantsev himself, favored abbreviating and simplifying them. Moreover, opinion was amazingly diverse. The representative of the Institute of Legislation, an academic lawyer, proposed submitting some truly juvenile "questions": "Do the executive authorities have to implement the laws?" And Deputy Yuriy Slobodkin proposed deliberately—may he forgive me—speculative wordings, such

as: "Do you agree to the abolition of the social gains that were recorded in previous constitutions: Free medicine and education, no unemployment." And others in a similar vein.

In short, they are trying to deceive one another and, most important, they want the referendum itself to combine two mutually exclusive things, in order to obtain predetermined answers and at the same time in order to have a choice. Alas, try as we might, we will still have to make a choice. What choice? It's general outline was revealed at the commission session: Who, what organ, what assembly will be empowered to adopt the country's Constitution? And as soon as the Constitutent Assembly was mentioned at the beginning of the debate, the next speaker said: "No constituent assemblies! Just the congress!"

But the point had been made. Will it be a direct question about the congress as the all-powerful organ, or will it be bound up with the "Basic Provisions"? This has to be answered. This most important question must not be fudged. If the referendum formula is like the one that was submitted 17 March 1991 for discussuion by the Soviet people, then people are unlikely to see any sense in participating in it.

But if the people are asked honestly, unequivocally, and clearly what kind of authority and what kind of state they want, then one may hope that the plebiscite will at least not be ruined.

Unfortunately, from information that is appearing in the press and is being discussed at various party meetings and in offices and the corridors of power, the impression is that our leaders or contenders for the leadership are more concerned with their own interests than with Russia's destiny. At the "Democratic Choice" assembly I mentioned before, they pondered and surmised: If the president comes to an understanding with the Constitutional Court, then it will be bad for parliament, and if Zorkin does not come to an agreement with the president, then Khasbulatov...and so on and so forth. The multiparty system is tearing society apart instead of creating political harmony in it, and this is merely increasing confrontation between the authorities. But the authorities, judging by the rumors—and indeed, by the facts—are more interested in creating winning teams than in seeking accords. It is not entirely unreasonable, then, to say that the failure of the referendum could easily be the beginning of the end for the Federation and, therefore, for Russian statehood?

Or its reestablishment on a totalitarian basis again. In the troubled times of the Weimar Republic Stefan Zweig wrote some prophetic words: "Driven to distraction by inflation, chaos, and uncertainty about the future, the people, having obtained freedom, do not know what to do with it and are waiting for those or the one who will remove this freedom in exchange for 'order'." The result of the Weimar chaos is well known. We have people lining up to exchange freedom for "order." They hardly have the power at the moment to establish a "strong regime," but they are perfectly capable of pulling down those things that have not yet been pulled down. In particular, with the aid of the referendum. Or the wrecking of it.

Political Issues

Poltoranin Claims Khasbulatov Attempted Coup

PM1401211593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Russian Federal Information Center chief Mikhail Poltoranin by L'UNITA's Moscow correspondent Sergio Sergi, reprinted from L'UNITA; date not given: "Mikhail Poltoranin Gives Interview to L'UNITA in a 'Still Drunk and Sleepy' Moscow: I Saved President Yeltsin From a New Coup d'Etat"]

[Text] L'UNITA published on 9 January, under the heading "How I Foiled a Plot Against Yeltsin," an interview which Russian Federal Information Center chief Mikhail Poltoranin granted to Sergio Sergi, the newspaper's Moscow correspondent. The subhead says: "A New Coup d'Etat in Russia Was Almost Accomplished. At Its Head Was Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov. I Foiled It."

Mikhail Poltoranin, a close Yeltsin aide, is back on the scene as information "big brother."

Mikhail Poltoranin says: "Gangs of armed men had already assembled in Moscow, ready to act as soon as the order came. There were 75 targets, including ministries, banks, and television." "The president should have removed the ministers of security and internal affairs, who knew everything."

"The opposition is on the offensive again, in order to prevent the holding of the referendum 11 April. Volskiy? A flash in the pan, he has nothing behind him. Well, only Gorbachev..."

The new coup d'etat was already well prepared some weeks before the turbulent Congress of Deputies in December. A "putsch" following all the rules. With special groups of men armed to the teeth; the seizure of all the capital's strategic buildings, from ministries to television companies; and the tacit consent of the ministers of security (formerly the KGB) and internal affairs. And at its head—Ruslan Khasbulatov. Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and opponent of Boris Yeltsin.

[Sergi] Who fended off this tragic prospect?

[Poltoranin] I did. When I realized what was happening, I started to speak, to sound the alarm... [Poltoranin ends]

Mikhail Poltoranin, 53, deputy premier and information minister, who withdrew on 25 November "in order to protect the president from opposition attacks," has broken the truce. And gone firmly onto the offensive. He

gave this interview to L'UNITA in a Moscow that was still drunk and sleepy, having just finished celebrating the New Year and still preparing to mark the Orthodox Christmas. Poltoranin, always noted for his sanguine temperament, lively energy, and sharp tongue, returned to the political stage with all guns blazing after just over a month of voluntary exile. Yeltsin could not manage without him. And indeed, as everyone had expected, a few days ago the "president's bulldozer" was back on track, with the status of first deputy premier and the post of leader of Russia's Federal Information Center. A kind of "big brother" who will control the mass media, television, and newspapers on behalf of the president. He is stronger than before, L'UNITA says.

The accusations concerning a coup d'etat and the statements that the nationalist and pro-Khasbulatov opposition is still preparing to explode new mines beneath the young Russian democracy came in the middle of the conversation, between calls from Foreign Minister Kozyrev and former State Secretary Burbulis. We were in No. 5 Strastnyy Boulevard, not far from Pushkin Square. It is his old office, only the nameplate at the entrance has changed. Poltoranin makes serious accusations. He says of Khasbulatov: "He's not even a Communist, he's a Bolshevik. A Bolshevik, that's all there is to it. He says: 'This newspaper must be closed.' Or: 'Put this one in prison, eliminate that one.' That's his style. He is very dangerous."

[Sergi] But just over a year ago Khasbulatov was on your side...

[Poltoranin] We were on the same team. We fought for him when it was a question of electing him chairman of the Supreme Soviet. We thought we could advance the reforms and develop democracy together.

[Sergi] But?..

[Poltoranin] But instead of that, he started surrounding himself with riffraff, the dregs of humanity, he started taking care of his own private business, openly exploiting his official position for personal purposes, deliberately delaying all draft laws aimed at advancing the reforms, and undermining the power equilibrium so as to rise above everyone. I no longer had any right to keep quiet, and I discovered what was being hatched. Yes, Khasbulatov is a Bolshevik, and it is my duty to fight him.

[Sergi] You accused him of trying to carry out a coup d'etat.

[Poltoranin] How else can you assess this situation? Here you have a Supreme Soviet chairman who forms an armed group for himself...

[Sergi] Khasbulatov said that this subunit had been formed earlier.

[Poltoranin] He always says one thing, and then does another. I repeat: He forms an armed group of some 5,000 men, with a special training school which has already trained a "spetsnaz" [special forces] squad, he issues instructions for the purchase of a further 40,000 automatic weapons. At the same time groups of Chechen thugs, armed to the teeth, arrive in Moscow and occupy an entire hotel complex near the VDNKh [Exhibition of National Economic Achievements].

[Sergi] What are you saying!

[Poltoranin] What am I saying? They came. They were there, waiting for orders. Meanwhile Khasbulatov, thanks to these groups, takes under his control the "Ostankino" television center, the State Bank, the prosecutor's office, the Foreign Ministry, and so forth. Some 75 targets. In short, he removes the militia which is subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and puts in his own people. Tell me, how would you define all that?

[Sergi] Wait a minute, this means that at the Congress Yeltsin signed a compromise agreement with the leader of a coup d'etat that was being carried out at that time?

[Poltoranin] Yes, but then the armed formations were abolished by presidential decree. You see, in a normal situation, in a normal country, after all these preparations by Khasbulatov, the president should have appeared at the Supreme Soviet session, addressed the people, and announced the resignation of the security minister and the minister of internal affairs, who had allowed all this to happen.

[Sergi] And the ministers consented to the operation?

[Poltoranin] Not only that. They supported it. The president learned everything from me, not from them.

[Sergi] So the ministers of security and internal affairs permitted the formation of these groups?

[Poltoranin] Especially the minister of internal affairs (Viktor Yerin—L'UNITA editor's note), who signed and put the facilities under guard. Without informing the president. For that reason, the president should have addressed parliament and announced the decision to remove them. Furthermore Yeltsin should have issued a directive suspending the activity of the Supreme Soviet itself until the completion of the investigation. That is what he should have done.

[Sergi] But he didn't do it. Why was he unable to do it?

[Poltoranin] He was not so much unable as unwilling.

[Sergi] Why?

[Poltoranin] Yeltsin is a man who immediately senses certain complications and tries not to exacerbate the situation. The president always believes in people's goodwill. [Poltoranin ends]

Let us go back. To 25 November last year, when the announcement of Poltoranin's resignation, coming after several days of rumors, was seen as a partial surrender of

Yeltsin's positions under pressure from the entrepreneurs' lobby headed by Arkadiy Volskiy. They repeatedly demanded a compromise on the leadership of the government. After Poltoranin's departure, another loyal man, Burbulis, was appointed to a new post—he was removed from the post of state secretary and appointed leader of the president's group of advisers. This gave rise to new questions. What was happening around Yeltsin? (Having returned with wider powers, Poltoranin says that he left at that time purely as a "tactical maneuver." And he grins.)

[Sergi] Was it all a trick?

[Poltoranin] I repeat: a tactical move. I decided to go in June. I submitted to Yeltsin a plan for reform of the Information Ministry, but it could not be put into practice because it would have meant changing dozens of existing laws. Yeltsin said to me: "Let's leave it, draw up another version." And so it was. Now my center, in the course of a year, is supposed to put the state information system into good order, both newspapers and television. An "Information Corporation" of journalists will be set up, and the government is also considering imposing a tax on the use of television sets. On the eve of the Congress Khasbulatov told the president: "Unless you remove Poltoranin, we will rout the entire Gaydar team."

[Sergi] And Yeltsin?

[Poltoranin] He asked my opinion. Naturally, he did not intend to fire me. I extricated him from a difficult position by declaring that everything possible must be done to save the Gaydar government. Then I submitted a new version of the ministry reform and told the president: The time has come to put our idea into practice. Yeltsin issued an edict. I resigned, and at a meeting with a group of chief editors of newspapers he said: "Remember, I do not betray my people."

We are not about to start fighting. And how could there be a fight, when people make no distinction between parliament and the government. "These people will cut each other's throats for money"—that is what the people think. But "they" are always ready to attack. They are gathering their forces. They are collecting signatures, in order to hold a "congress" in March, before the referendum.

[Sergi] To what end?

[Poltoranin] To get the referendum canceled and exploit destabilization.

[Sergi] But this agreement carries the signature of the Constitutional Court chairman as guarantor. Who would dare do anything?

[Poltoranin] It's simple. The Supreme Soviet would meet, adopt a decision to convene a Congress, and approve a draft Soviet-style constitution. If this were to happen Russia would no longer exist as a state. It would collapse.

[Sergi] How realistic is the threat of Russia collapsing?

[Poltoranin] I am very sacred of separatism. I advocate a unified state. If a two-year term of presidential rule—as permitted under the Constitution—is not introduced, Russia will collapse. I do not even want to think about it. Or about what might happen in the Far East, for instance.

[Sergi] Is Yeltsin now stronger or weaker after his December difficulties? You have been reinstated, but Burbulis and Gaydar aren't around any more.

[Poltoranin] I wouldn't say that the president was well prepared for the Congress. All the people who had traditionally helped him to formulate his strategy had been removed. I'm talking about Shakhray, Burbulis, and myself. We were the people who at the previous Congress put forward the idea of additional powers—an idea which subsequently triumphed. Now here we have Skokov (secretary of the Security Council) and Petrov (a former leader of the president's administration—UNITA editor's notes) preparing for the Congress.

[Sergi] Are you concerned?

[Poltoranin] Of course. Yeltsin's report was weak. Yeltsin had far stronger ideas [vykladki] prepared by us—he should have talked about the concept of a Russian state, about economic and political reform. He should have mounted the rostrum as the president, not as someone responsible for the government. But "they" persuaded him otherwise. Yes, Burbulis has indeed been removed somewhat now, but he remains a starting point. He will set up an international political science center called "Strategy." Gaydar remains a constant comrade in arms. Yeltsin has a direct phone link to him—he presses a button and calls him up.

[Sergi] How do you rate Premier Chernomyrdin?

[Poltoranin] The fact is that the government no longer has the autonomy it had before, and, consequently, it isn't that important whether Gaydar is in it or not. The government has no legislative initiative—everything has to be filtered through the president before reaching the Supreme Soviet. The premier is an honest man. He is something of a traditionalist, but he's a good man and a strong organizer. It is important not to let him fall into the hands of the populists in the Supreme Soviet.

[Sergi] What do you know about the president's party?

[Poltoranin] I support that idea. A president without a social base will always tremble like a leaf in an autumn breeze. Saying that his base is the whole people is too broad a concept. Burbulis, in particular, is working on the party. This party will emerge out of various democratic movements and the debris of left-of-center parties and the movements that are emerging in the provinces.

[Sergi] Is it true that Yuriy Skokov, who coordinates the Security Council's work, is a very powerful man who is plotting behind the scenes?

[Poltoranin] The darkest deeds have always been ascribed to Burbulis. The same is true of Skokov—powers that he in no way has are ascribed to him. The fact that he, like any of us, may hope that the Security Council will be given leadership rather than just consultative functions is another matter. But the Council operates within the constitution, and he wouldn't be able to do this.

[Sergi] What are relations like between Yeltsin and Rutskoy following the clash at the Congress?

[Poltoranin] It's an ordinary working relationship. You can't do anything about the personal level. Rutskoy approved Yeltsin's appeal to the Congress (against the dominance of Khasbulatov—UNITA editor's note), but later mounted the rostrum and backtracked. With the help of my center I will be trying to unite all forces and bring them closer together. The problem of relations between the branches of power needs to be solved.

[Sergi] What can you say about the powerful Volskiy, the leader of the Industrialists' Union?

[Poltoranin] Volskiy is a flash in the pan—there's nothing behind him. The only people who support him are the Gorbachev group and the former president himself. Ever since privatization, his organization has moved closer to the government. Quite clearly, I do not want to say anything about Gorbachev. He hopes to make a comeback, but he has very few supporters. He has none among the Communists. Nor among the patriots. He is clearly supported by a narrow range of 1960's intellectuals. Volskiy is a kind of hammer in the hands of Gorbachev, who hopes to shake the mighty tree of Russia.

[Sergi] Just before Christmas you were received at the Vatican. What did the pope say to you?

[Poltoranin] It was a private visit. I was interested in delving more deeply into the subject of human destiny and finding the reasons for the degradation of humanity in this century. I had unofficial visits with prominent Italian statesmen.

[Sergi] Did the pope say anything about a possible trip to Russia?

[Poltoranin] We would need everything in our country to settle down first. We have too many popes. Whereas you in the West have only the one... [Poltoranin ends]

From the editorial office: What can you say to that?... Clearly, when he gave this interview Mikhail Nikiforovich was in the same state as Moscow was after the New Year. Incidentally, there is no limit to his overfamiliarity, political irresponsibility, and adventurism. That is something that Moscow is not alone in discovering...

Security Ministry Dismisses Coup Accusations

OW1501130793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Security Ministry believes that the statements concerning a coup which was allegedly being prepared with knowledge of the state security bodies and was to be conducted on the eve of the 7th Congress of the Russian people's deputies in December 1992 "does not correspond to the reality." These assertions were contained in the interview of the leader of the Federal information center, Mikhail Poltoranin, with the newspaper "Unita" and was published by the Russian mass media.

Aleksey Kondaurov, the deputy chief of the public relations Center of the Russian security Ministry, declared on Thursday [14 January] in Moscow that the employees of the Security Ministry are loyal to the Constitution and to the law and their actions are aimed at the strengthening of Russia's statehood but not at the participation in the political struggle for power.

Court To Renew Hearings on National Salvation Front

LD1501093593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—The Russian Constitutional Court will resume hearings to decide whether President Yeltsin's decree to dissolve the organisational committee of the National Salvation Front is constitutional or not. The hearings of this case, which began on November 30, were postponed due to the 7th Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, which had to be attended by the deputies, who had applied to the court, and the judges.

The presidential decree to disband the organisational committee of the National Salvation Front was signed on October 28, after the Front's congress. The head of the Russian state qualified the National Salvation Front as a "grouping, resorting to unconstitutional actions". The goals of the Front, the decree notes, "are aimed at fomenting national discord and constitute a real threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation and to the independence of the neighbouring sovereign states".

A group of people's deputies, representing opposition forces within the Russian parliament, protested against the decree, claiming that the president had no right to adopt a decision to liquidate a public association, because this was a prerogative of the court.

One of the authors of the appeal, Deputy Vladimir Isakov, told the first meeting of the Constitutional Court that "not a single document of the National Salvation

Front contained calls to foment national discord or any threats against the constitutional system".

In turn, lawyers from the presidential state legal department, defending the decree, stressed that the documents of the Front's congress "reveal the goals of the emerging organisation, the forms and methods of its work, many of which directly contradict the Constitution of Russia". They stressed that the Front's materials contained calls to remove from power the lawfully elected president and appeals to servicemen, urging them to disobey orders issued by the defence minister and to conduct anti-government propaganda in military units. In other words, they contained calls to launch a campaign of civil insubordination, to resolve power problems by forcible methods. By issuing the decree "on measures to defend the constitutional system of the Russian Federation", the president has displayed proper concern for the state and public security of russia, it is believed in the presidential legal department.

The Constitutional Court is to decide whether this is true or not.

More on Yeltsin Edict

PM1501104593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Shinkin report: "An Edict, One More Edict... The President Has Backed Off from the National Salvation Front But Placed Public Movements Under Control"]

[Text] The day before yesterday Boris Yeltsin issued an edict "On Measures To Step Up Monitoring of the Creation and Activities of Public Associations." In the president's opinion, this document will strengthen constitutional legality and law and order in the country.

The Russian Government and organs of executive power at local level are required to ensure strict observance of constitutional legality when registering the rules of public associations, to step up monitoring of their activities, and to strictly fulfill the constitution's requirements on the inadmissibility of the creation and activities of parties, organizations, and movements which pursue the aim of violently changing the constitutional system and the state's integrity...

The president also demands the exposure of organizational structures which have appropriated the powers of constitutional organs of power and the submission of proposals to the corresponding organs for the disbandment of these structures.

The point in the edict where the president urges organs of executive power to ensure that proceedings are instituted against public paramilitary associations and armed formations merits special attention. Public associations (including ones which have not registered their rules) whose activities go beyond their stated aims and tasks or otherwise violate legislation on public associations are also inadmissible. It has also been decided to institute proceedings against people whose actions are aimed at impeding the legitimate activity of organs of state power.

At the same time, let us particularly note, the discrediting of organs of state power by means of spreading information that is known to be false will be punished.

In conclusion, evidently after a conversation with Constitutional Court Chairman V. Zorkin, Boris Nikolayevich backed off from his struggle against the National Salvation Front. In connection with the fact, the president wrote, that the organizing committee of the so-called National Salvation Front has ceased its activity, the point about abolishing the organizing committee in the president's Edict No. 1308 of 28 October 1992 "On Measures To Defend the Russian Federation's Constitutional System" is to be deemed invalid.

Shumeyko on Chernomyrdin Cabinet's Tasks

OW1501050893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1904 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] While maintaining the course of reform the task of the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin objectively differs from the aims of the former cabinet of Yegor Gaydar. This was announced on Thursday by the first vice-premier of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Shumeyko, at a meeting with journalists. According to him "theoretically" under any reconstruction of the economy, as a rule, three governments are changed: "The first government should destroy the old system - this was done by Gaydar - and break the planned economy. The course of Chernomyrdin's cabinet, the cabinet of stabilization, is to halt the decline in production while maintaining the tempos of structural reconstruction and privatization".

Shumeyko negatively relates to the resolution on state regulation of prices on certain categories of goods, which was signed at the end of December. He said that now the resolution is being reworked. The document, according to him, "in principle should not have been publicized." The first vice premier explained that it was the fault of the staff of the government that the resolution was released since it was signed but not intended for release".

He thinks that "the time has come to regulate prices in the economy of Russia with the help of cartel agreements". The point in this case, he said, is about agreements between producers and customers on the basis of reaching a compromise between demand and supply.

Shumeyko noted that the government is "actively preparing for the referendum of 11 April on the fundamental provisions of the new constitution". The first vice-premier personally conducted several meeting on

this issue. He said that it is expected that a joint committee of the government and Supreme, Soviet on preparations for the referendum will be created. The government is consulting with the parliament on this. The deputy to the head of cabinet thinks that the government must bear all the technical questions for conducting the referendum.

The first vice-premier stressed that members of the new government also intend to intensify work on propagating its course at the regional level as well. Yesterdays meeting of vice-premiers outlined the schedule of their working trips to the regions.

As announced by Shumeyko, in the government plans for indexing deposits of the population in savings banks are being studied. Most importantly the cabinet intends to achieve an "immediate increase" in the interest rates on deposits by citizens. "The interest rate must completely protect the citizen from inflation. The state is obliged to create such conditions under which it will be advantageous to the citizen to save money in the savings banks and we could use these resources for investment", the deputy prime minister said.

He also announced that to attract investment in agriculture the government will create large agrarian joint-stock regional companies. It is expected that with this objective the government will free that portion of the profits of industrial enterprises, which will be invested in such a joint-stock company, from taxes.

Shumeyko confirmed the devotion of the new government to a strict credit course. He drew attention to the fact that the "loans commission directed by Boris Fedorov will give credits only to those enterprises which present a corresponding development plan".

The government, according to him, will pass a resolution on the acceptability of the ruble on the whole territory of Russia in all trading points. "It is necessary to immediately abolish such facts as when the ruble is not accepted in a shop. We must respect our own currency", noted the deputy to the chairman of the government.

"There has not been and there will not be western aid to Russia, so do not count on it", the first vice-premier added. "The only thing I would heartily welcome is the deferment of the present debt of the Russian Federation for the furthest possible date. Currently negotiations are going on of a date of 3-5 years, we would have wanted 10", he added.

Answering a question from INTERFAX, shumeyko said "Russia is determining its external economic priorities and is ready to go part of the way to meet partners from republics of the former USSR, especially on questions of financial cooperation. We are trying, within the context of bilateral agreements with each of the republics of the former USSR, to achieve maximal mutual understanding in all spheres of activity. We are trying not to devise the same mechanism for all. Bilateral agreements make it possible to study the peculiarity of relations between republics. In these bilateral relations there are a lot of difficulties. The reason is that we supply them with energy resources such as oil, gas and the like. The level of extraction in Russia is now falling and this explains the significantly lower volume of supply to republics of the former USSR. As a result economic difficulties affect the character of political cooperation as well". Using a five-point system, shumeyko rated the effectiveness of economic interaction within the CIS, at three minus. Future prospects for the development of the CIS, in his opinion, depends a lot on the outcome of the negotiations between the Russian and Ukrainian leadership, and also on the results of the Minsk summit of leaders of countries of the Commonwealth.

Shumeyko declared for the strengthening of borders with neighboring countries. For this reason he said, in particular, "today the question already stands that at all our airports sections on borders and customs should be established. We are already being confronted with such facts as when a large quantity of money which has been exhausted and intended for destruction is brought by airplanes from former Union republics, currently sovereign states, and dumped in Russia".

The first deputy of the head of the cabinet said the change in the leadership of organs of the government is natural. "The government is working out resolutions and decrees and their implementation must be followed by the personnel whose leader must share all views first with the premier and the government as a whole. The premier must trust the chief of staff completely". According to Shumeyko this explains the resignation of the former chief of government staff, A. Golovkov.

Security Official Thinks Gorbachev Knows of CPSU Money

OW1401190393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Intelligence Service has not yet received the parliamentary inquiry concerning the money illegally taken out of the former Soviet Union, the Russian Intelligence Service's Press Secretary, Tatyana Samolis, told Diplomatic Panorama. She said, however, that this document is likely to arrive soon.

On Wednesday [13 January] the Russian parliament's Council of Nationalities decided to send an inquiry to the Russian Intelligence Service to find out the cost of the Croll Agency's services in finding the money which belonged to the Soviet Communist Party.

A representative of the Russian Intelligence Service's Press Bureau told Diplomatic Panorama that when his agency receives such documents, it looks for related information through its own channels. "What we must

do now is to find out the reliability of the Croll Agency and to reveal whether it has any chances of finding anything at all," he said.

As to the Soviet Communist Party's money, transferred to foreign banks by order of the party leaders, this problem may be clarified in an easier way, he said. "We need to call Mikhail Gorbachev to the Procurator-General's Office and question him. In his opinion, the ex-general-secretary of the Soviet Communist Party will provide much more information than any firm or company.

Opposition Groups Hold Joint News Conference

LD1501000193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—A news conference of the "Russian Unity" [Rossiyskoye Yedinstvo] and "Fatherland" [Otchizna] parliamentary opposition blocs and the National Salvation Front, which had been dissolved by a decree of the Russian president, was held here today.

Piling up strategic offensive weapons is senseless; however, the Russian-American START II Treaty should be viewed critically, since "the existing nuclear parity will be upset if there is no conceptual and thorough study of the treaty," the "Fatherland" spokesman said.

The "Russian Unity" bloc expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people and condemned the position by the United States and their allies toward a sovereign state. In its opinion, "the UN Security Council demonstrates a one-sided position in this matter." As was stated at the news conference, the bloc will try to obtain the resignation of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who "by his actions causes damage to the Fatherland."

The "Russian Unity" bloc, assessing the Russian president's budget message, thinks that it contained "many issues, such as the repayment of foreign debts, formation of primary and final incomes, methods of settlement, and others that were not absolutely clear." In general, it gave a critical appraisal of the message, stressing that "it lays the foundation for redistributing revenues in favor of speculative capital."

The National Salvation Front spokesman announced that a congress to restore the Communist Party would be held on 13-14 February in Moscow. He called for "the unification of all patriotic forces."

The organizers of the news conference drew attention to the position of the State Committee for State of Emergency members who are in prison. It was noted at the meeting that a group of people's deputies from the "Russian Unity" bloc had signed an appeal on 30 December, the authors of which called on the investigating bodies to release on bail the committee members still in prison pending trial, with themselves standing surety.

Leaders of Parties Discuss National Accord

LD1401212093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 14 ITAR-TASS—The leaders of Russian political parties, movements and public organizations met with members of the Russian Constitutional Court today to discuss ways of reaching constitutional and national accord and preserving the federation.

According to Constitutional Court President Valeriy Zorkin despite the striking difference in viewpoints all those present must unite in understanding the need of creating the same legal framework for all, with the Russian Constitution as the backbone.

The meeting was the first in a series aiming to do away with negative trends in society, the Russian television news channel said in commenting on the event.

Zorkin on Accord

LD1401234893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Let us return to events in Moscow, where an hour ago Valentin Zorkin received leaders of the Russian political parties who are worried that our Federation is falling apart. Correspondent Chukseyev reports:

A roundtable meeting in which representatives of various political parties, movements and public organizations are participating, opened today in the Constitutional Court building in Moscow. The meeting is aimed at reaching constitutional and national accord in order to save and preserve the Russian Federation. In the opinion of the Constitutional Court chairman, despite the enormous differences in the points of view of those present, one thing should unite them: Understanding of the need for creating an equally binding legal framework for all, and the core of this should be provided by the Russian Constitution. The situation in the south of the country caused the most concern. It was assessed that the number of hot spots will probably grow in the near future.

Today's roundtable meeting marked the beginning of a dialogue which should help to change these negative tendencies.

Further on Meeting

OW1501131193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [14 January] evening Valeriy Zorkin, the chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, had a meeting "at the round table" with the leaders of Russia's major political movements including "Democratic Russian," "Civic Union," the socialist orientated organizations, and the opposition parliamentary bloc "Russian unity." The leader of the Constitutional Court expressed his hope that "the round table" will become a permanent forum for dialogue and consent between different public organizations.

One of the leaders of "Civic union", Aleksander Vladislavlev, supported the idea of "the round table" which, in his words, is necessary for a country "which has lost control." Sergey Baburin, a member of the Supreme Soviet and the leader of the "Russian unity", expressed his opinion that the upcoming referendum on the basic provisions of the new Constitution, scheduled for April, is "an error" because it can cause a serious social upheaval. The deputy asserts that the electors will participate in the all-nation voting only if it will contain the issues of premature election of the president, parliament, and councils of all levels.

The chairman of the Committee on legislature of the Russian parliament, Mikhail Mityukov, disagreed, saying that "the referendum is inevitable" and one should thoroughly prepare for it.

Oleg Rumyantsev, the secretary of the Constitutional commission, declared that the federal authorities pay attention only to the hot-spots on the map of the Russian Federation, ignoring the problems in "the relative calm regions." According to Rumyantsev, about 3 billion rubles have been allocated to Chechnya from the state budget of the Russian Federation which have been spent by the republic's leadership for the procurement of armaments but not for the needs of the population.

Summing up the results of the discussion, Zorkin expressed the hope that the mediation of the Constitutional court in the organization of the dialogue between the public forces is necessary only on the first stage and will then develop without its participation.

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Collegium Discusses Strategic Forces

LD1401143893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 14 ITAR-TASS—The collegium of the Russian Defence Ministry met today to discuss some "pressing issues in the life and activity of the Russian Armed Forces".

The meeting considered the state of affairs in the missile units of the country's strategic forces and discussed the draft order of the defence minister concerning the coming into effect of the regulations for the bodies conducting work with the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Collegium members also discussed the results of military building in the Russian Armed Forces in 1992 and tasks for 1993.

Armed Forces Not Affected by Action in Iraq

LD1401153593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The military actions in Iraq have had no effect on the state of combat readiness of the Russian Armed Forces, an RIA correspondent was told at the press service of the Russian Defense Ministry. Usual planned work is currently taking place in the Armed Forces. No unit has been brought to a higher state of readiness, the press service representative noted.

Defense Ministry Discusses Report on Rocket Forces

OW1401172593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their Thursday [14 January] session, the Russian Defense Ministry Collegium addressed the report delivered by Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, Commander in Chief of Russian Strategic Missile Forces, and assessed the actual state of the national strategic missile forces.

The Collegium also addressed the results of the reorganization of the Russian Armed Forces in 1992, as presented in a report by Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev, and summarized their objectives for 1993.

The Collegium also discussed the Russian Defense Minister's draft order concerning the establishment of personnel educational bodies at the Russian Armed Forces.

Government To Bury Sunken Nuclear Submarine

OW1401182293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [14 January] the first Vice Premier of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Shumeyko, reported to journalists that in the near few days the cabinet of ministers will approve the Provision on the Committee to conduct underwater special purpose works which was formed in accordance with the decree of the Russian President. According to Shumeyko, the short-term task of the committee is to bury the atomic submarine "Komsomolets" which sank in the Norwegian Sea in 1989 (at that time 40 crew members died as a result of a damage on the submarine - INTERFAX).

Shumeyko pointed out that despite the economic difficulties the Russian government will conduct works to recover the water environment with the help of the committee. "In order to solve this problem as soon as possible the cabinet of ministers of the Russian Federation intends to put forward an initiative to create an international fund for underwater special purpose works and is ready to be responsible for the organizations issues," the first vice premier declared.

Officers Organizing To Stop Army's 'Disintegration'

PM1501113193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[S. Turchenko report: "The Army Outside Politics—A People Without a Motherland. Press Conference by the Organizational Committee for Convening an All-Army Officers' Assembly"]

[Text] A year has gone by since the First All-Army Officers' Assembly. Its decisions—to prevent the disintegration of the Army and keep the Armed Forces united and efficient—were treated in the same way as the results of the all-Union referendum of 17 March 1991. The Russian defense minister eliminated the assembly itself and its structures as far as regiment level by a strong-arm decision. Officers who actively condemned the disintegration of the Army are being subjected to repression. Many of them have already been discharged from the Armed Forces without any legal grounds.

Meanwhile, as was noted at the Seventh Russian Congress of People's Deputies, what is left of the Army is "ruins and fragments...; systems of communications, military command and control, intelligence, missile attack warning, air defense, and facilities for troops have been destroyed." This process is being exacerbated by the treacherous political decisions of the Russian Federation leadership and, in point of fact, the unilateral destruction of the country's missile shield.

In this situation, hundreds of demands to convene the All-Army Officers' Assembly are being sent from officers in the localities to the "Union of Officers" headed by Lieutenant Colonel S. Terekhov; the assembly would express its opinion on the processes taking place in the Armed Forces and elaborate measures to put an end to the disintegration of the Army.

Russian Federation People's Deputy B. Tarasov made this proposal at a closed session of the Seventh Congress. However, Defense Minister Grachev immediately responded by saying: "At present it is inexpedient to hold an all-Army conference of Army representatives," backing this with the sole—completely unjustified—thesis that this would apparently become "a political act, and extremely politicized questions would be raised there."

The Army is outside politics. People are now trying to use this hypocritical thesis to cover up the renunciation of their oath by the top command level of the Armed Forces and its betrayal of the interests of the socialist Fatherland, to which all officers had sworn the oath, and also the unprecedented destruction of a once-invincible Army, once again for the sake of politics—only anti-people politics.

The Army is an instrument of politics and, however much some people may not like the fact, it will never be objectively outside politics, particularly in the period of the harshest ordeals for the motherland. Could the armed forces of Minin and Pozharskiy stay outside politics at a time when Moscow was occupied by the Poles, Novgorod by the Swedes, and the rulers of Rus were advocating submissiveness? Can an honest officer remain outside politics now that the motherland has been handed over for looting and humiliation by foreigners and its own nouveaux riches?

Lieutenant Colonel Terekhov, chairman of the Organizational Committee for Convening the All-Army Officers' Assembly, announced this on behalf of the officers of Russia at a press conference. An open letter to the Russian defense minister was read out as well as an appeal to officers in the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Security, the presidents of CIS countries, the Supreme Soviets, people's deputies at all levels, the ministers of defense, internal affairs, and security, and the broad public.

The telephone numbers of the organizational committee in Moscow are 283-79-47, 121-85-55, and 454-24-07.

Economic Issues

Minister on Measures To Stabilize Agriculture Situation

OW1401214593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Agriculture and Food Minister Viktor Khlystun told INTERFAX the government will shortly issue a decree on urgent measures to surmount the crisis in Russia's agroindustrial complex and stabilize food production this year.

The decree would, in particular, stipulate that Russia would import, until August 1993, 18 million tonnes of forage grain, which is much more than originally planned, and that the state would compensate to agricultural producers 30 percent of their expenditures on harvesting machinery, mineral fertilizers, and herbicides.

Agricultural enterprises will also be provided with all the production facilities they need "at regulated prices." The decree would also establish a fixed ratio between purchase and retail prices in order to prevent manufacturing industries from unreasonably overpricing their output, Khlystun said.

Government Set To Procure Grain With French Credit

OW1501041793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government set the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry "in the near possible terms" to sign an agreement with France to draw a $375 million credit for the import of 2,5 million tons of grain. The deliveries of the grain are supposed to be conducted in the first half of 1993 via the Russian foreign economic joint stock company "Exportkhleb." The observers note that the upcoming conclusion of the agreement on the French grain credit has a special significance under the situation when Russia cannot pay off the debts for the previous grain credits of the United States and as a result Russia practically does not receive grain from abroad.

In February 1992 France already granted Russia a $365 million credit to procure grain.

Government Directive on Economic Reform Decree Summarized

PM1501115793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Government Takes Radical Steps in Social Sphere. Russian Federation Council of Ministers Has Drafted Directive on Measures To Fulfill Seventh Congress of People's Deputies Decree 'On the Course of the Economic Reform'"]

[Text] The government-compiled plan of measures aimed at fulfilling the decisions of the Sixth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies comprised 100 points. Following a bad tradition emanating from party congresses, the executive power was supposed to react literally to every remark made by a deputy from this high platform. At a government session discussing the progrsss of fulfillment of this "plan of measures" in October of last year First Vice Premier Shumeyko stated that the government was acting according to this principle, inherited from former times, for the last time, inasmuch as deputies are not party leaders, and ministers are not the executors of their personal wishes. Indeed, the executive power is supposed to fulfill the laws of the state, not the personal whim of each and every deputy.

And now, under the leadership of Vladimir Shumeyko, there appears a draft government directive on measures to fulfill the decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies "On the Course of the Economic Reform." Does this mean that, despite the first vice premier's statement last year, the government continues to act according to its former pattern?

No, the government is consistently upholding the principle of the autonomy of the branches of power, and the new document differs fundamentally from the previous amalgams of deputies' remarks of 100 and more points. It is a question of measures to fulfill the Congress's key decree on the course of the economic reform. The document, unlike previous ones, does not contain numerous individual points, but only five categories.

First and foremost, the draft provides for a range of measures aimed at implementing legislatively enshrined social guarantees. In particular it aims to elaborate the criteria for determining the minimum wage and its permanent indexation. It is also planned to establish the size of increases in benefits and compensation payments to disadvantaged citizens. The list of government measures in the social sphere also includes the provision of federally funded concessionary travel to certain categories of citizens, the establishment of a federal minimum free medical service, and granting unemployed citizens subsidies and loans to study entrepreneurial activity. The corresponding presidential edicts and government directives will be prepared on this subject.

One of the government's most radical steps in the social sphere, it is expected, will be the preparation in February on the president's instructions, of a special program to index-link the population's Savings Bank deposits.

The second category of measures is aimed at deepening agrarian reform and promoting agro-industrial production. It is a question of stabilizing food production in 1993, safeguarding the economic interests of agricultural commodity producers, stimulating internal and foreign investments in the agro-industrial complex, and redeeming the agro-industrial complex's 1992 debt, which arose as a result of inflation.

The third category comprises measures aimed at forming and implementing state industrial policy. There is support for the base industries and enterprises, index-linking of enterprises' capital assets, tax concessions on a proportion of profits plowed into the promotion of consumer goods, and the state regulation of prices for individual kinds of goods. Protectionist measures are also envisaged vis-a-vis Russia enterprises on the internal market.

The next category enumerates measures aimed at improving financial and monetary policy: the demonopolization of the credit and finance sphere, tighter controls on the use of preferential credits, stimulation of the supply of credits to investment activity, the division of the financial rights of subjects of the Federation, and state regulation of the production and sale of alcoholic and tobacco products.

The fifth category assembles measures aimed at improving foreign economic relations with our immediate neighbors. It is also planned to examine proposals aimed at ending the use of foreign currency on Russian territory.

Economic Freedom Party's Borovoy Hits Chernomyrdin Moves

MK1401163593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under "Nonstop" rubric: " 'Guys, Such Fools Will Be the Death of Us'"]

[Text] This was the warning given to journalists yesterday by Konstantin Borovoy, using the single word "despair" to describe the situation following the new government's first steps.

In the opinion of the Economic Freedom Party Political Council it is simply improper of Premier Chernomyrdin to promise 200 billion in preferential credits to the already well-off Gazprom. In the civilized world attempts to turn personal interests into state policy priorities, the Economic Freedom Party statement notes, culminate in a minister's dismissal.

The government decree "On the State Regulation of Prices for Certain Categories of Products and Goods," which Borovoy believes is antimarket, will inevitably lead not only to a ration-card distribution system but also to a curtailment of political democracy "even in the near future."

The Security Ministry is reorienting itself toward the protection of narrow group interests, and all mass media will end up being controlled.

The first signs of encroachments on freedom have already appeared. Mr. Borovoy has reported that, on Chernomyrdin's verbal instructions, men wearing jeans and women wearing pants are no longer admitted to the government building.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Greets Media Workers on Press Day

PM1401123593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Congratulations from President"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has congratulated the mass media workers on Russian Press Day. The congratulations say: "The press played a tremendous part in breaking the totalitarian communist system in the former Soviet Union. Democratically minded journalists were in the first ranks of the fighters for freedom and in the same camp as those who thwarted the attempted reactionary putsch in August 1991. They are making an inestimable contribution to building a rule-of-law state on our land.

"Henceforth no one will be allowed to encroach on the freedom of the Russian press, in which we see a very important guarantee for ensuring citizens' democratic rights and freedoms in our renascent pluralist society."

Khasbulatov Greets Media

PM1401124593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Message from R.I. Khasbulatov "To Editorial Collectives of Russian Federation Periodical Publications"]

[Text] Dear friends!

Allow me to congratulate you on Russian Press Day.

I am sincerely convinced that the Russian press will be truly free and as truthful and objective as possible and will help to establish Russia as a federal, multiethnic state and to restore the peoples' creative and economic potential.

Health, happiness, and the implementation of your hopes to you and to your families and to all those to whom you have deveoted your hard and noble labor!

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov.

Military Media's Role Viewed

PM1401131793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Stasovskiy article: "Today Is Russian Journalism Day"]

[Excerpts] The birthday of Russian journalism is being celebrated for the first time 13 January. [passage omitted]

The military press still seeks to keep its finger on the pulse of the times today. The "hot spots" on the territory of CIS states have become a second place of service and even a second home for correspondents of military newspapers and journals. Remember the song of frontline journalists: "With Leica and notepad and even with machine gun..." This is how things are today too.

Journalists in uniform today focus their attention on problems of the reform of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and on the life and combat training of troops and naval forces.

Like everyone, of course, the military newspapermen have plenty of problems. Newsprint is getting more expensive, distributors are hiking their rates, circulations are falling, there is growing competition in the information market... And yet it is gratifying that military publications have not only not lost their permanent readers but have also acquired new friends.

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, has congratulated employees of the military mass media on their professional festival. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Adopts Resolution on Referendum

OW1401173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 14, the Russian parliament adopted the resolution on the national referendum's organization, concerning the basic provisions of the new constitution.

The Central Electoral Commission for the election of people's deputies will be in charge of the referendum.

The parliament instructed the Russian Federation's Constitutional Commission and a number of parliamentary committees to make up a list of the working group's members, who will formulate the wording of the new constitution's basic provisions. This job is to be done within three days.

Rules Referendum for 11 Apr

LD1401152293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The Russian parliament has ruled that a federation-wide referendum on the main provisions of the new constitution would be held on April 11, 1993.

The resolution, approved by both chambers at their joint meeting, said the Central Electoral Commission for the election of Russian people's deputies will act as the referendum central commission while local electoral commissions will assume the same duties in the regions, territories and areas. Their composition will be replenished where necessary within a week after the publication of the resolution.

The Russian parliament instructed the government to handle material and financial problems relating to the referendum.

The parliament instructed the Constitutional Committee jointly with the parliament Committees for Legislation and Self-Government to submit within the next three days the list of members of the working group which will finalize the text of the questions for the polls.

Parliament Adopts Laws, Ratifies Kyrgyzstan Treaty

LD1401214293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1948 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—After a heated discussion the Russian parliament has adopted a resolution on "measures to ensure holding a nation-wide referendum in Russia on April 11, 1993." The resolution stated that general vote would be held on basic clauses of the draft of the new constitution.

The Russian parliament endorsed a law on "commemoration of those killed defending their native country." Under the law, people who died during combat operations or while performing other missions or their duties defending their native country and those who died while doing their military duty on the territory of other countries, should be commemorated.

A clause of this law envisages the responsibility for the breach of a law envisaging that the graves of servicemen and tomb stones and other memorials commemorating those killed defending their motherland are to be protected by the state.

The Russian parliament has ratified a treaty between Russia and Kyrgyzstan on legal aid.

The Russian parliament adopted a draft bill on "the fundamentals of budget rights and rights to form and use non-budgetary funds of representative and executive bodies of republics in the composition of the Russian Federation, autonomous regions and districts, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg and bodies of local government."

New Supreme Soviet Committee Chairman Named

LD1501020893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by Vladimir Perfilyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The Russian parliament has an almost six-month marathon regular session ahead of it. [passage omitted] In connection with the appointment of Yefim Basin as chairman of the Russian Federation state committee on construction and architecture, he has been released from his duties as a member of the Supreme Soviet and its presidium. Aleksey Orlov has been elected as chairman of the Supreme Soviet committee on construction and architecture. [passage omitted]

Communists Protest at Parliament; Disturbances Reported

LD1501101893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—A Democratic Russian lawmaker said he was attacked by hard-line communist demonstrators picketing the parliamentary

building on Friday and demanded that parliament gives an assessment to the extremist activities of the demonstrators.

Lawmaker Lev Ponomaryov told the parliamentary session he was "detained and beaten up" by the pickets.

Hard-line lawmaker Sergey Baburin, in turn, proposed that Ponomaryov undergoes a medical check-up, but parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov interfered calling to refrain from "turning the parliament into a test range for ideological experiments".

He also added that pickets at the parliamentary house are "a serious enough event" and "everything which is banned by law should be cut short".

Head of the parliamentary Committee on Law, Order and Anti-Crime Fight Aslanbek Aslakhanov was instructed to find out what had happened and report to the parliament.

Over a thousand hard-line demonstrators gathered before the parliamentary house demanding TV air time, to dissolve the Federal Information Centre headed by Mikhail Poltoranin and calling on the parliament not to ratify the START-2 Treaty which they said "will place Russia into bondage from America".

A group of the demonstrators who represented the hard-line "Working Russia" Movement, the Russian Communist Party and other so- called patriotic organisations, entered the parliamentary building demanding six minutes of TV air time to read out their statement. However, Khasbulatov rejected their request.

'Heated Clashes' Predicted for Supreme Soviet Session

PM1401135193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pavlov report: "Difficult Times Ahead for Them"]

[Text] After going home for the holidays and meeting with voters, parliamentarians have now returned to the golden-domed capital and began their work yesterday. The presidium examined a plan of legislative activity and a number of current questions. They included the program for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Stalingrad.

There is nothing in the White House now to suggest thunderstorms ahead. Deputies, relaxed and happy after the holidays, are exchanging pleasantries with one another. Nevertheless, there will certainly be heated clashes in the near future. The reason for that, one imagines, is the ratification of the START-II Treaty signed by Bush and Yeltsin 3 January, as well as the discussion and approval of the budget for 1993. The president's budget message, which was drawn up by the Gaydar government, did not greatly satisfy the members of the Supreme Soviet, judging by the initial discussion at the end of December. But will the new government make substantial adjustments to it?

I would not be too sure about that. Viktor Chernomyrdin's statements are contradictory. On the one hand he is trying to operate on the basis of the realities of life and the economy, but on the other hand he speaks as the standard bearer of Gaydar's reform.

Of course the premier cannot be in both these camps at the same time. But in choosing one of them, or even trying to combine them intelligently, he will have to define his position. This will mean either an alliance between Chernomyrdin and the president, who is responsible for sociopolitical stability in the country but nevertheless continues to generate destructive processes while at the same time asking the people to have faith in his "sense of flair." Or it will mean an alliance between Chernomyrdin and the Supreme Soviet which, despite all its shortcomings, continues to reflect objectively both the life of the people and the disposition of political forces in society. At the moment, in the opinion of some observers, Chernomyrdin is in a muddle.

However, an alliance between the president and the Supreme Soviet is hardly possible, as events since the congress have shown. Boris Yeltsin is true to his obkom [oblast party committee] background and recognizes only one authority—his own. His entourage, which has an interest in being under a strong and yet at the same time weak master, is working quite hard to persuade him of his messianic role. Therefore, the wave discrediting the parliament, congress, and people's deputies themselves will gather fresh momentum. A vehicle for this in the form of Mikhail Poltoranin's newly created department, which has been dubbed the "Ministry of Truth" after the well known ministry in Orwell's Animal Farm, has already been created.

The preparation for the referendum on the fundamentals of the Constitution will most probably be used by that machine not to explain the mechanism of cooperation between the branches of power but to adapt the articles of the Basic Law to suit the incumbent president.

Khasbulatov 'Programmatic' Article Attacked

PM1401095793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Andrey Kolesnikov article: "Parliamentary Publicistics. Ruslan Khasbulatov Has Written a Program Article"]

[Text] Recently there have been persistent rumors in various leadership and editorial corridors that Ruslan Khasbulatov, who, incidentally, will now attend Security Council sessions on legitimate grounds, is preparing for another Congress of People's Deputies, so as to hold it before the April referendum. All these are hypotheses, however, maybe even of a neurotic nature. The chairman of parliament himself has stated his position in a huge article published recently in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

The article resembles least of all a publicistic work. It is, rather, a document of a semiofficial yet quite programmatic nature, on which both Ruslan Imranovich himself and his "speechwriters" probably worked for many days. To a certain extent Khasbulatov has shown his hand and at the same time made several "discoveries" in the political and legal sphere.

In particular, it is possible to learn from the article by the speaker of parliament that "the presidency was saved by the Congress." This is probably some backstage sensation, because the deputies themselves "affected" to want to end the institution of the "presidency" as such. It is also reported that in "the strengthening (this is in the text—A.K.) of the crime situation" "the executive power has shown its complete bankruptcy," as though it is not the militia and the prosecutor's office but the prime minister that must tackle the "weakening" of this very situation. In general, the government will soon be held to blame for the fact that, through an oversight on its part, the weather is abominable over most of the European territory of Russia...

Ruslan Imranovich proposes a new cast-iron formula, which we might as well call by its name: "The constitution as the fundamental law is important, above all, as a criterion of the legitimacy of legislation being adopted and of the activity of the executive and the judiciary." It is clear from this discovery that the constitution does not apply to the legislature, probably because, according to Khasbulatov, who makes a broad interpretation of the existing constitution, the provisions of "the fundamentals of the constitutional system and the very norms of the constitution can rightfully be interpreted by the Congress alone."

The chairman of parliament devotes more than one paragraph to a proof of the fact that the constitution is not necessarily a stabilizing factor and, in confirmation of his thought, he refers to the experience of Britain, where there is no constitution as a separate written act. This is an extremely unfortunate example, since the Anglo-Saxon system of law operates in Britain and is built on qualitatively different principles to our legal system, which is Romano-German in origin.

Khasbulatov's musings on the dubious effectiveness and expediency of holding the referendum on the constitutional question are more carefully argued, and the skepticism of the chairman of parliament is largely justified. But Ruslan Imranovich proceeds not so much from a general theoretical understanding of the problem of the referendum as from the mercenary political interest of the conservative majority in the present legislative assembly.

"The proposed option for adopting the fundamentals of the constitutional system in a referendum," Khasbulatov writes, "substantially limits the constitutional right of the top representative organ (the Congress, the Supreme Soviet) connected with its exercise of legislative powers." You cannot help suspecting the speaker of parliament of slyness: What prevented the Congress from adopting the constitution which the legislature has now been shelving for more than a year? For the presidential side did not get the idea of a referendum on the main provisions of the new Russian Constitution just for the fun of it but because of the inability and reluctance of the legislative branch of power to tackle constitutional reform seriously. Very complex constitutional matters have to be put to the people for their verdict—the president has no other means. Several paragraphs later we learn which path suits Khasbulatov himself: "To one degree or another the present constitution had already absorbed the provisions of the new constitution and done this in a 'soft' form, by means of gradual adaptation and transformation, not a 'revolutionary leap.'" Does it turn out that the perfectly normal and logical adoption of a constitution which has long been ready and which is more or less fitting for a free society is a "revolutionary leap"?!

There is also a positive part of the "program": If the alternative options do not receive the necessary number of votes in the referendum, "the Congress will have to form a new Constitutional Commission and draw up a better-quality draft of the new constitution." You can imagine what kind of commission and constitution these will be! For we are not talking of the alternative democratic draft constitution of A. Sobchak and S. Alekseyev. In addition, in Khasbulatov's opinion, in the event of the referendum's failure its initiators "must undoubtedly resign. New elections both of the president (which does not conform with the existing constitution so beloved of the chairman of parliament—A.K.) and of the corps of deputies of Russia will be absolutely inevitable."

So R.I. Khasbulatov has no need of any early Congress. He has a reserve option for a final solution to the "presidential question," which he is prepared to realize by playing on the political apathy of a considerable section of Russians. The only conclusion that follows from Khasbulatov's article is that the power struggle has not yet entered its critical stage, and it will become clear precisely this year which path Russia will take.

Khasbulatov on Constitution, Referendum

PM1401172593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 93 First Edition p 2

["Second and final part" of article by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: "Ruslan Khasbulatov: The Congress of People's Deputies and the Referendum"—first part of article published in the 14 January Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT beginning on page 37]

[Text] The referendum on changing certain constitutional state or social institutions (introducing the post of president or establishing an eight-hour working day) has a legal significance.

There is one further aspect connected with holding a referendum on the fundamentals of the constitutional

system. In the course of this campaign the ideological opposition between various political groups will inevitably be sharply exacerbated. The number of political conflicts will increase, and, consequently, the possibility of society's being thoroughly destabilized, long before the new Constitution starts to play the role of a stabilizing factor, will also grow.

However, even despite the political struggle and the resulting excitability of the masses, the positive results of the referendum are far from being as obvious as we would like. Above all, it is not obvious that the required majority of voters will take part in the referendum. Many of them are obviously disappointed by the effectiveness of the outcome of these types of actions: In their opinion, despite everything, the Union disintegrated at the whim of the top officials of the states belonging to it, and might not Russia disintegrate after such a referendum?

Moreover, the population is far from satisfied with the activity of those persons who demand the people's trust.

On the other hand, it is well known that back when the Union referendum on preserving the Union in a renewed form was held, as also, for that matter at the time of the republic referendum on establishing the post of president, many regions simply refused to take part in it. Will such a situation not arise now also? And this in its turn could lead to the destabilization of the federative relations now existing, and with difficulty maintained, in Russia, especially seeing that for the modern constitutional process the participation of subjects of the Federation in the confirmation of constitutional provisions is of great significance. Incidentally, this was achieved during the process of work on amending and supplementing the existing Russian Constitution. The present Constitution to some extent has already absorbed the provisions of the new Constitution, and has done this in a "mild" form, by means of gradual adaptation and transformation, and not through the "revolutionary leap."

Of course, the decision adopted by the Congress must be implemented. But all state organs will evidently confront considerable difficulties in the course of holding the referendum, difficulties mainly of a political nature, something deputies foresaw in initially rejecting the Constitutional Commission's proposal on holding a referendum, and only returning to it as a result of the political crisis which arose in the course of the Seventh Congress' work.

The Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies "On the Stabilization of the Russian Federation Constitutional System" stipulates that a referendum is to be held 11 April 1993 on the basic provisions of the new Russian Federation Constitution. Many questions, doubts, and hesitations arise in this respect.

First of all, let us note that the practice of adopting constitutions shows that, as a rule, they are adopted either by a legislative assembly, or by a specially created or elected organ on the basis of a special law. In this case a law is adopted by the supreme legislative organ exclusively to tackle this sole task.

I will repeat, the idea of holding a referendum on the fundamentals of the constitutional system was insistently proposed by the Constitutional Commission. It argued the need to hold a referendum in order to ensure the stability of the constitutional system. At the same time, it worked on the assumption that after the referendum it would subsequently be difficult to make amendments and additions to the Constitution on key positions. On the one hand, this approach was to a significant extent justified on the proviso of there being social accord and well-elaborated fundamentals of constitutional reform. On the other hand, the proposed option for adopting the fundamentals of the constitutional system at the referendum substantially restricts the constitutional right of the supreme representative organ (the Congress, the Supreme Soviet) as regards the exercise of its legislative powers.

But at the Seventh Congress **it was decided to submit to referendum not the fundamentals of the Constitution or the Constitution itself—a matter which was also discussed—but only the basic provisions or constitutional principles of the future state structure of the Russian Federation.** Essentially, these principles can at best be **only a "confirmation" of those very democratic principles proclaimed by the Russian Federation in the existing Constitution. Therefore, it is exceptionally important that all our fellow citizens who might potentially take part in the referendum properly grasp what accords with the Constitution, and what slogans have an anticonstitutional character and promote the destabilization of the situation in the country.**

Consequently, we need to clearly investigate possible mechanisms ensuring the stability of constitutional order and preserving the powers of both the supreme representative authority, and the executive authority. At the same time the main task is to ensure stability in the system of supreme organs of power and in the system of their interaction, and also in the question of the national-state and administrative-territorial structure of the Russian state.

Today no one in our society denies such values as civil, political, and other human rights and freedoms or seeks to abolish the various forms of ownership or the identical degree of their protection. And virtually no political force has proposed changing the provisions of the Constitution on these questions. But nevertheless, over the last year we have seen attempts to divide society into reformers and antireformers, into "reds-and-browns" and "good guys." The well-known events at the Seventh Congress were the culmination of these attempts. Hence there will probably be new attempts to "circumvent" the decisions of the Seventh Congress.

The main question, however, remains: Can the problem of the separation of powers (that is, specific forms of a system of checks and balances) be settled in a referendum? I am convinced that it cannot, since settling this problem entails long work on the elaboration of the appropriate mechanisms, and requires answers to a very large number of questions.

Let us examine this in more detail.

One very important circumstance must be borne in mind: **The submission to referendum of the question of the organization of the organs of power will inevitably lead to an appraisal not only of the mechanisms of interaction of these organs, but also of the specific personalities who stand behind this or that political structure, slogan, or action.** As a result of this, it is entirely likely that the power structures of the future Constitution will doubtless be once again tailored to the leaders currently ruling them, and the stability of the constitutional order will once again be put to the test. Actually, we experience this pressure constantly in the Supreme Soviet while working on the new Constitution. At times you are astonished: Some people literally proceed on the assumption that they are immortal, demanding still more and more powers, which, of course, they are unable to exercise.

The second question which it is proposed to submit to referendum is the question of national-state structure. A positive outcome of the referendum on the integrity of the Russian Federation could be the basis for curbing centrifugal tendencies. But there is also a great danger that the very act of submitting such a question to referendum will provoke the most powerful disintegrational processes. Not all the republics—and indeed, not just the republics within the Russian Federation—in all likelihood, agree with such a referendum being held. And therefore the maximum caution and circumspection should be displayed.

Thus, as a result of the fact that the fundamental democratic values (human rights and freedoms and a market, competitive, mixed economy based on the equality of forms of ownership) are rejected by virtually no one, and the questions of the organization of the organs of power and national-state structure cannot, by virtue of the causes indicated above, be resolved unambiguously at a referendum, there was no objective need to hold a referendum on the basic provisions of the new Russian Federation Constitution. And, taking account of the fact that it is hardly likely that it will be possible to finalize work on the preparation of the text of the new Constitution by the date the referendum is held, many surprises await us.

It is difficult to rid oneself of the impression that the proposal to hold a referendum in the existing critical situation pursues the hidden objective of obtaining the people's support in confrontation with the legislative organ of power. At the same them, it did not appear possible to avoid this decision at the Seventh Congress. It would have been interpreted as the supreme representative power's being afraid to accept the assessment of the people. The pro-official propaganda would have undoubtedly derived the maximum "destructive benefit" from this for the purpose of strengthening a regime which is "devouring" itself.

But now decisions on this question have already been adopted by the Congress. **Hence at the same time as the organizational preparation of the referendum, in order to ensure constitutional stability it is essential to search for the sort of mechanisms which would guarantee a procedure for adopting constitutional amendments, reflecting the objective state of our society.**

In particular, amendments that are made to the Constitution concerning questions of the federative structure should be adopted uniformly, taking account of the opinion of the subjects of the Federation. This presupposes the need to hold with them not nominal consultations "at the double," but serious consultations. In the event that a number of Federation subjects refuse to accept constitutional amendments on these questions, they should possibly not even be examined.

Of course, this procedure is applicable only when the observance of constitutional legality becomes the norm, both for the Federation as a whole, and for its subjects. In this event the violations of the federal Constitution, despite whose provisions Russian republics are in a number of cases adopting Constitutions of their own, will be totally excluded. For the sake of this alone, incidentally, the practical activity of the governmental-parliamentary commission on implementing the provisions of the Federation Treaty, the issue of which the leadership of the Supreme Soviet raised repeatedly throughout the past year after the signing of the treaty, brooks no delay.

In the preparation of the referendum it is exceptionally important **to observe the accords achieved in the course of the work of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies,** the corresponding decree adopted by the Congress, and the interpretation of that decree, also given by the Congress.

Above all it is necessary to formulate general questions which can be submitted to referendum in exact accordance with the accords reached at the Congress. Let me remind you of the gist of those accords. It is that the basic provisions of the constitutional order and its principles should be discussed on a nationwide basis. Otherwise there is a danger that the supreme legislative organ will fall into a trap.

Today the Constitutional Commission has proposed a draft of the basic Constitutional provisions to be submitted to referendum. It must be acknowledged that they correspond to the above-mentioned proviso. I think that they could serve as a good basis for future examination.

Nevertheless, first, they are too long, reminiscent of a treatise. Just imagine how much time will the voter

spend in the booth on the day of the referendum if he wishes to study the text. And is everyone capable of doing so?

Second, individual wordings of the basic provisions require perfecting from the point of view of substance also. Thus the reference in Part 2 of paragraph V of the future Constitution to the fact that the only representative and legislative organ is the Supreme Soviet could serve as a formal basis to disband right now the representative organs already existing today (the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviets of the republics, and the oblast and kray soviets). Incidentally, this is exactly what some of the radical politicians closely connected with the ruling political regime are banking on. Is this not the true goal of the initiators of the referendum? As a result of this, it is necessary to legislatively enshrine proposals for a transitional period and restrict ourselves to a wording stipulating that the system of state power is based on the separation of powers.

Third, there is no reference in the proposals to the Council of Ministers or the Constitutional Court, which simply will not do. Moreover it is already obvious that the role of the government must be significantly increased in the new Constitution—a government under the control of parliament and formed by parliament on the basis of the representations of the head of government. As for the head of government, that person will be proposed, as now, by the president for approval by parliament.

Fourth, it should be especially pointed out that the state-territorial structure of the Russian Federation is based on the principle of federalism, ensuring the unity of the Russian Federation and the consideration of the interests of the subjects of the Federation on the basis of the Federation Treaty.

Fifth, it needs to be clearly indicated that the procedure and conditions for acquiring land, mineral resources, and other natural facilities as property and also the conveyance thereof, are established by the corresponding law.

Of course, the proposed basic provisions cannot be the final version. It still remains to agree them with the Supreme Soviet, the Russian Federation president, the Constitutional Court, and possibly with an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies.

I expect that in the course of the agreement process the wordings "a presidential republic" and "a parliamentary republic" may be proposed. It is quite obvious that they could not be submitted to referendum owing to their emptiness and abstraction. It is well known that no universal definition of these concepts exists, and no one is clear where a "parliamentary republic" ends and a "presidential republic" begins. These are nothing more than exclusively theoretical, academic arguments, with no practical value. These terms are being imposed with just one aim: to distract public opinion from the truth, and to divide people into the "righteous" (the advocates of strengthening presidential power) and the "unrighteous" (the "antireformers," "all those reactionary deputies") and to establish some variety of dictatorial regime (ochlocratic regime). I will recall that revolutionary explosive material of gigantic power began to accumulate in Russia in connection with the czar's dispersal of the Fourth State Duma.

Some political circles are pushing intensively for the question of the new Constitution's being adopted by a Constituent Assembly to be submitted to referendum. This proposal is exceptionally cunning, aimed at wrecking the country's integrity. Moreover, it clearly contradicts the decree "On the Stabilization of the Russian Federation Constitutional System" and the official interpretation of this decree given by the Congress of People's Deputies. By the basic provisions of the Constitutions one understands: the general principles of the social system, the organization and activity of the organs of power, the fundamentals of the legal status of the individual, and so forth.

The proposal for the Constitution to be adopted by a Constituent Assembly relates to the procedure for adoption, and correspondingly cannot be the subject of a referendum either before 11 April, nor on 11 April. In accordance with the agreement at the Congress, other referendums should not be held during this period.

Judging by experience, there also exists the danger of society's encountering, long before the referendum, demands that other questions, not agreed on earlier, be included as alternatives. **In connection with this the Supreme Soviet should establish that after the publication of the basic provisions, no proposals for supplementing or amending the wordings should be submitted.**

The interpretation of the Seventh Congress' decree referred to above, which was made at the request of a group of deputies, should be exploited to the full. The interpretation gives no possibilities for submitting to referendum or holding the referendum on other questions than the principles and general provisions of the Constitution, either before or on 11 April 1993. Here any "linkage" is ruled out by the decision of the supreme legislator, the supreme power in the country.

It would possibly be expedient, in order to ensure constitutional legality while preparing and holding the referendum, to begin long before it is held the work of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies, which could be held in two phases—the first to precede the referendum, the second to be held straight after the referendum.

The question of how the results of the referendum are to be summed up also needs to be clearly examined. The Constitutional Commission, in discussing the question of work on the new Constitution, proposed, in my view, an incorrect approach, the gist of which is to sum up the results of the referendum on the basis of Article 35 part 3 of the Law "On Referendum," and not on the basis of

part 4 of the same article, which defines the procedure for summing up the results in adopting amendments and supplements to the Constitution. I suggest that this is no accident—this option for assessing results will be proposed also for the holding of the referendum on the basic provisions of the new Constitution. And consequently, advocates of this approach must assume that the 11 April referendum is essentially a referendum on the adoption of part of the new Russian Federation Constitution, whereas in fact it is only a question of the basic provisions, the principles running through the whole Constitution, and consequently, they cannot be "included" in the future Constitution as a "part" of it.

If there are multiple-choice questions, then in the event that Article 35, part 4 of the Law "On Referendum" is followed, it is possible that the options will not receive the required number of votes. In this event, obviously, the Congress will have to form a new Constitutional Commission and elaborate a more qualitative draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution.

One exceptionally important circumstance should also be borne in mind: If in the referendum no majority is received, either overall, or among the populations of the subjects of the Federation, this will drastically weaken state power in general, and **the initiators of the referendum should undoubtedly resign.** New elections, both of the president and of the Russian deputies' corps will become inevitable. Therefore we should all cooperate in preparing for this eventuality. Here it is necessary to avoid maneuvering, political games, and other "amusements" whose like we saw during the Sixth and Seventh Congresses of People's Deputies, and to think not of private interests, but the interests of people, of the state.

If this does not happen and the referendum gives positive results, intensive work awaits the Supreme Soviet together with the Constitutional Commission to enable the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies to adopt the new Constitution, determine when the Constitution will come into force, and adopt a new electoral law, and indeed all the "machinery" of the transitional period. Of course, in this period it is necessary to nip in the bud any anticonstitutional ideas aimed at abolishing the higher representative organs of power. Including attempts to resuscitate the ghost of the past, such as the tragically famous idea of "uchredilovka" [colloquial term for the prerevolutionary idea that all political, economic, and social questions could be resolved by a Constituent Assembly. uchredilovka is also used of the assembly itself, or rather the caricature of it, distinguished below from the Constituent Assembly proper, which met for one day in January 1918], the very suggestion of which only illustrates the theoretical nullity of the "new radical ideologues," ideological zombies that they are, devoid of historical memory.

It should be remembered: Nothing so strongly reinforced Lenin and Trotsky in 1917-18 as the promotion by their opponents, including the White movement, of the banner of the Constituent Assembly. "Uchredilovka," being hated among the people and having no firm roots, since the very principles of election to the assembly excluded a truly representative character, had turned in public opinion, long before the creation of the Constituent Assembly proper, into an object of mockery and derision. And how many ironic caricatures appeared in the newspapers and journals on the subject of this same "uchredilovka," which had in effect turned into a forum for vacuous talk!

So that, even without seaman Zheleznyak in October 1917 [when the Constituent Assembly rejected the Bolshevik declaration in support of the first decrees of the All-Bolshevik Council of People's Commissars in January 1918 —not October 1917—Zheleznyak, chief of the guards of the Tauride Palace where the assembly was meeting, "invited" non-Bolshevik deputies to leave, after which the assembly was abolished], the Constituent Assembly was already in its death throes. Only time remembers this, and the dispassionate archives.

It would not be a bad idea for them to know all this, all these new idols and idolaters who are agitating public opinion, offering yet again false values and great upheavals, and cynically giving in exchange only empty promises.

Correction to Baburin Motions for Ship Withdrawal

LD1401151793

Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1452 GMT on 14 January issues the following correction to the item headlined "Baburin Motions for Withdrawal of Russian Ships From Gulf" published in the 14 January Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on page 35:

column one, second paragraph of item, only sentence, make read:...with a Russian helicopter, shot down by...(changing "warplane" to "helicopter")

Regional Affairs

Shakhray, Chechen Leaders Discuss Northern Caucasus

View Normalization of Situation

LD1401105993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The normalisation of the situation in the Northern Caucasus, the elimination of the consequences of the Ossetian-Ingushi conflict, the anti-crime fight, defence and border security issues were discussed by Russian deputy prime minister and head of the Nationalities Policy State Committee Sergey Shakhray with leaders of the Chechen parliament on Thursday.

If talks with Chechen parliament speaker Huseyn Akhmadov are successful Shakhray will be received by President Dudayev later in the day, the press service of the State Committee reported.

On Thursday Shakhray will fly from Groznyto Pyatigorsk to meet with representatives of national movements and political parties of the Northern Caucasus, it added.

Protocol Signed After Talks

LD1401162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1558 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy January 14 TASS—Russia and Chechnya held talks and signed a protocol and a communique on the outcome of the talks in Groznyy today.

Chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Parliament Ramazan Abdulatipov, Chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Nationality Policy Sergey Shakhray and his deputy Valeriy Shuykov signed for Russia and Chechen Parliament Chairman Huseyn Akhmadov, his deputy Bek Mezhidov and Chairman of the Chechen Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Yusup Soslambekov signed for Chechnya.

The Russian delegation left Groznyy without meeting with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and flew to Mineralnye Vody to attend a conference of representatives of the national movements and parties of the Northern Caucasus which is due to open on Friday.

Shakhray Comments on Talks

LD1401162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 14 Jan—The vital need for and possibility of settling bilateral relations by exclusively peaceful political means was officially recognized by the delegations of the Russian Federation and Chechen Republic at their meeting today in Groznyy.

The Russian delegation comprising Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet; Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the state committee on ethnic policy; and Valeriy Shuykov, his deputy; and the Chechen delegation comprising Huseyn Akhmadov, chairman of the Chechen Republic's parliament; Bek Mezhidov, his first deputy; Yusup Soslambekov, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Chechen parliament; and Sharip Yusupov, the Chechen republic's representative in Moscow; signed a protocol on the results of the meeting of the delegations and also a communique on the results of this meeting.

During the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, it was decided in particular to set up working groups to prepare a Treaty on the demarcation and mutual delegation of powers between the Russian Federation and the Chechen republic. The working groups are due before 31 January to compile a set of powers, which will be exercised jointly by the republics, and a set of exclusive powers for each of the sides. The Russian and Chechen delegations will have a further meeting at the start of February to draw up the text of the treaty.

A communique on the results of today's meeting says that the two sides paid great attention to the situation in the North Caucasus. It emphasizes the constructive nature of the decisions of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies directed at stabilizing the situation in the region. It notes the special role of the Chechen Republic in a settlement of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. The delegations expressed the unanimous view that there was a need to hold negotiations between the opposing sides for the purpose of achieving a peaceful resolution of the conflict and a normalization of the situation in the region.

In a short interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Ramazan Abdulatipov and Sergey Shakhray commended the results of today's meeting. The meeting would, in their view, make a start toward lessening tension in the North Caucasus region. "A voluntary dialogue, a voluntary distribution of powers, and a voluntary, mutually beneficial regulation of processes" is, Sergey Shakhray said, one of the highest manifestations of sovereignty and independence. "And, in this respect, today's meeting marks an important step forward in settling relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic." Replying to the question of whether the meeting indicated Russia's recognition of the Chechen Republic, Sergey Shakhray declared that "the Chechen Republic has already been recognized by Russia's Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, which made appropriate amendments to the Russian Federation's Constitution."

Yusup Soslambekov, chairman of the Chechen parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, called today's meeting "the beginning of peace in the North Caucasus."

The Russian delegation's planned meeting with Dzhokhar Dudayev, the president of Chechnya, did not take place, and the president's press service made no comment on that fact.

In the evening, the members of the Russian delegation flew from Groznyy to Mineralnyye Vody to attend a meeting with representatives of national movements and parties in the North Caucasus, which opens tomorrow in Pyatigorsk.

All possible measures were taken by the authorities of the Chechen republic to see that the Russian delegation's visit to Groznyy went along without incident. Well-informed sources in Groznyy told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that additonal security measures had been

occasioned by urgent information that certain forces from the area of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict intended to organize an attempt on the life of Sergey Shakhray. He was informed of this beforehand, but flew to Chechnya's capital regardless.

Treaty To Be Signed

OW1401171393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Chechnya agreed to develop and sign a treaty on division and mutual delegating of authorities between two republics. The text of the document is to be initialled early February. The chairman of the Chechen parliament Huseyn Akhmadov reported this information in his interview with INTERFAX on Thursday following his meeting with Sergey Shakhray, the chairman of the Russian state committee on national relations, and Ramazan Abdulatipov, the chairman of the Council of the nationalities of the Russian parliament, the same day in Grozny.

According to the final protocol of the meeting in Groznyy, the Russian-Chechen treaty should define what authorities the republics would implement jointly and what authorities would be in the competence of Russia and Chechnya.

The protocol emphasizes the necessity to normalize the relations between Russia and Chechnya, to preserve the single economic, defense, information, and cultural space. Russia and Chechnya also recognized the necessity to settle mutual relations only by peaceful political methods.

On Thursday evening Shakhray departed from Groznyy to Pyatigorsk though he had not met with the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Chechnya Reasserts Sovereignty, Independence Stance

PM1501122593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[INTERFAX report: "Chechnya Confirms Course of Independence"]

[Text] The Chechen parliament and government have confirmed their course of achieving independence for the republic. A statement disseminated in Groznyy by the Chechen authorities at the same time refutes the statement from an official Chechen spokesman and featured in some of the Russian mass media alleging that Chechnya is prepared to sign a treaty with Russia which would abandon the idea of sovereignty and independence for the republic.

"Any treaties or agreements concluded with other states, including Russia, can only have legal force if they are negotiated and signed by official Chechen representatives specially empowered for this purpose by parliament and the president," the statement notes.

Nationalities Official Interviewed on Caucasus Problems

PM1401142393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with V.N. Lysenko, deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Nationalities Policy, by correspondent Aleksandr Aleshkin; place and date of interview not given: "Only Calm Hands Will Untie Tight Knot"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Tomorrow, 15 January, a "roundtable" begins work in Pyatigorsk. Sitting at the table will be representatives of the Russian Federation parliamentary and government structures and leaders of political parties, national movements, and the North Caucasus cossacks.

The day before our correspondent Aleksandr Aleshkin met with V.N. Lysenko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy.

[Aleshkin] Vladimir Nikolayevich, why has the State Committee for Nationalities Policy chosen Pyatigorsk?

[Lysenko] That is explained by the general situation in the North Caucasus. It is extremely complex and confused. So it is best to untie the tight knot through joint efforts—of the center and the region's influential forces.

The complexity is determined by many factors: The extraordinarily motley ethnic composition of the region, problems connected with the rehabilitation of repressed peoples, the recent transformation of the North Caucasus into a Russian border zone, and, finally, the large number of refugees from the Transcaucasus.

There are two very serious conflicts on the region's borders: in Abkhazia, where a war is virtually under way, and in South Ossetia. South Dagestan is in a preconflict state. As a result of the collapse of the USSR the Lezgin people have been divided by the border between Russia and Azerbaijan.

The very grave Ingush-North Ossetian armed conflict, in the zone of which Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Government and chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, is almost permanently, deserves a special talk. And what about the unregulated nature of relations between the federal center and the Chechen Republic and the problem of the Russian and Russian-speaking population and the resurrection of the Cossack community?

So that there is a lot we must talk about.

[Aleshkin] In your opinion, how will events develop in the North Caucasus?

[Lysenko] Much depends on which forces gain the upper hand in the region: those which advocate the solution of the problems of the North Caucasus peoples within the Russian Federation or the separatist forces seeking to create new state formations outside Russia and oriented toward neighboring Islamic states?

And on whether the federal center will be able together with the republics, krays, and oblasts to prevent the slide toward violent, unconstitutional methods of resolving contradictions.

Today it is becoming increasingly obvious that until the economic and sociopolitical situation in the region is stabilized any partitions and repartitions are possible and extremely dangerous. The moratorium imposed by the Russian parliament on the review of borders is the only sensible instrument of stability.

Much depends on whether we succeed in implementing political and economic reforms in the republics and forming a new political elite by peaceful parliamentary means without political cataclysms. In other words whether the leadership of the republics, the national movements, and the Cossacks manage to reach a sensible compromise—in the interests of these republics' peoples.

Each of them has its own features. But the destabilization of the situation in just one subject of the Federation could lead to a "chain reaction" and to a drastic aggravation of the situation throughout the North Caucasus.

[Aleshkin] But there is probably a fourth factor operating outside the region?

[Lysenko] And it could prove decisive. It is the sociopolitical stability and success of economic reforms in the Russian Federation as a whole. If Russia begins to emerge from the crisis in the foreseeable future then separatist trends will objectively weaken. If not—we will not succeed in preserving the RUssian Federation's unity even with the aid of force.

All this is making the Russian leadership pursue an active policy in the North Caucasus region. Its main point is the deepening of mutual understanding and collaboration between the federal center and the subjects of the Federation.

Situation Remains Complicated

LD1401143593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 14 TASS—The Russian peace-keeping forces are continuing to enforce the state of emergency regime on the territories of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia. No attacks on army units, cantonments, guarded facilities or checkpoints manned by interior troops were reported during the past 24 hours. The situation is fully under control. However, according to military sources, it is still very complicated. This is due to the fact that the population has large quantities of firearms on hand, the exchange of hostages has been stopped by both sides, and unlawful armed formations have not been disbanded.

As many as 111 people were arrested during the past 24 hours for violating the state of emergency regime, 15 crimes and offences were recorded. About 2,000 motor vehicles were checked and 54 detained.

Representatives of the Russian Red Cross continued to receive and distribute humanitarian aid, sent through the Red Cross from the United States. Food parcels were delivered to the Mayskyy settlement in North Ossetia.

Documents adopted by the extraordinary meeting of the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which discussed the decisions of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet to set up a National Guard and a People's Volunteer Corps, are being widely discussed in the North Ossetian Republic. Guided by Item 5 of Article 114 of the Russian Constitution, the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet ruled unconstitutional the republican parliament's decisions on the Republican Guard and the Volunteer Corps. It noted the impermissibility of setting up armed formations on the territory of Russia, not permitted by the Russian legislation.

In the meantime, the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetian Republic adopted a resolution noting, in part, that under the Constitution of North Ossetia and the law "on the security of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic" matters linked with the disbandment and disarmament of the Republican Guard and the Volunteer Corps are within the competence of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet. It decided to suspend the action of Article 3 of the decision adopted by the 7th Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation "on measures to settle the armed conflict on the territories of the North Ossetian and Ingush Republics", pertaining to the Republican Guard, People's Volunteer Corps and citizens, holding registered firearms, until the situation in the North Caucasian Region is stabilised and real guarantees are provided to the territorial integrity of the North Ossetian Republic and to the security of its citizens.

Stavropol Defense Industry Plant Conversion Succeeds

PM1401114193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by N. Shebalkov, identified by caption, from Stavropol's Almaz Plant]

[Text] [Shebalkov] Until recently the Almaz Production Association was the largest defense industry enterprise in Stavropol Kray. But it has now been two years since the last mine was closed down. And it is exactly a year since hydrometallurgists processed the last batch of uranium ore.

Almaz has been withdrawn from the military-industrial complex nuclear program once and for all. There was no panic. Conversion, which began here back in the mid-eighties, came to the rescue. It is no accident that not one of the production association's 6,000 employees has been made redundant. And that is despite the fact that the association had to face conversion on its own, without any state assistance.

But it stood its ground. An electromechanical plant has been started up. It produces pumps designed at the association for hydraulic ore-hole mining. These pumps can also be used for pumping water from wells. A unit for the production of pumps for the dairy industry was set up. After that came the production of man-made diamonds and piezoelectric ceramics.

Taganrog Plant Conversion Damages Defense Potential

PM1401155393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By Boris Kostenko and Igor Bolotnikov; from the Novosti newscast]

[Text] [Kostenko] This is Taganrog's Priboy Plant. The volume of military orders here is down from 75 percent to 1 percent for 1993. A current shortfall of 1.5 billion rubles in working capital means that even the production of goods ranging from these (?octane correctors) for Zhiguli cars and universal water filters, to these miniplants for making sausage and macaroni, cannot begin. Incidentally, the latter are far tastier and ten times cheaper than imported versions. These lamps and microwave ovens will appear in our stores sooner or later.

But state interests in this specific plant lie on a completely different plane. There is not a single warship in Russia today which would put to sea on alert duty without the sonar apparatus made at the Priboy Plant. It is not only the country's leading enterprise in this field, but its only one. Despite this, there is almost total conversion here. We filmed these empty workshops on Friday. There is no work. The plant switched to a four-day week several weeks ago.

[D. Dygay, general director of Taganrog's Priboy Plant] Curtailing the production of sonar equipment for surface ships will do enormous damage to the country's defense capabilities.

[Kostenko] Unfortunately, events taking place at the Priboy Plant are typical of the situation in our national military industry. To this day there is no law on conversion, and the procedure for implementing it is unclear. And unlike NATO countries, for instance, there is no well-thought-out strategy for developing Russia's defense industry. For several years now, we have been saying that it is possible to reconstruct our economy using the resources, manpower, and technology belonging to the military-industrial complex. But the years pass by, and existing mechanisms are being destroyed. The solution? That lies with the government.

Tatarstan Currency, Economic Council Established

PM1401094393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 3

[EKOTASS report under "News" rubric: "Tatarstan Currency and Economic Council Set Up"]

[Text] An edict by President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan has set up the republic's Currency and Economic Council. The purpose of the new organ, according to its chairman—Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov—is to implement a unified currency and economic policy and to ensure the efficient utilization of foreign credits and investments. The system for receiving and expending currency funds will henceforth be strictly regulated. The priorities for currency expenditure in the republic have also been defined: the agrarian sector, health care, grain and food purchases.

Currency enters Tatarstan from the export of crude oil, petrochemical products, and other output.

Tomsk Oblast Soviet Against Nuclear Waste Dump Site

PM1401145193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 3

[Viktor Sapov report: "Atomic Energy Ministry Did Not Reckon With Oblast Soviet"]

[Text] Tomsk—Tomsk newspapers are once again full of material on the Siberian Chemical Combine or, rather, on the fissionable materials dump that is here. Components from the nuclear weapons dismantled under the Gorbachev-Reagan agreement are kept there. The point is that the Ministry of Atomic Energy did not reckon with the oblast soviet, which is opposed to the siting of a dangerous new installation in Seversk for the storage of industrial and weapons-grade plutonium removed from warheads.

The minister's order relating to this resembles a lordly charter enabling him to behave as though Tomsk-7 were his own estate. It was with difficulty that ministry officials were persuaded to hold an international seminar in Tomsk on the handling of radioactive waste. But "greens" believe that the elaboration of a safety criterion still does not resolve the problem. In this connection the oblast soviet adopted an appeal to the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Government of the Russian Federation, which sounded like an ecological disaster signal.

Russian Security Minister Visits Tyumen Region

LD1401160793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shvetsov]

[Text] Tyumen January 14 TASS—Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov arrived in the oil-rich Tyumen region in western Siberia.

The purpose of the visit was not disclosed, but the local "TYUMENSKIYE IZVESTIYA" newspaper believes Barannikov was sent to Tyumen by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to probe the situation in the region.

Chernomyrdin had earlier announced his intention to stabilise the economic situation in Russia thanks to developing fuel and energy resources in western Siberia.

Barannikov is to find out whether the region will stand up to the task, the newspaper said, but did not explain why the security minister was chosen for the mission.

Earlier there were press reports about embezzlements in oil production in the region.

International Affairs

Kravchuk on START Treaties, Moscow Talks, Israel

OW1401181193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Ukrainian- Russian economic relations will be the main subject at his negotiations with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to be held in Moscow on Friday [15 January]. He said strategic armaments issues, in particular the START I and START II treaties, will also be dealt with. "But these can only be regarded as the principal lines along which we are going to act," he said in Kiev Airport on Wednesday, having returned from Israel.

The two presidents will bring up the Black Sea Fleet issue as well, Kravchuk said, but he doubted they will sign any documents on it.

Speaking about the CIS, the Ukrainian president said, "We ought to explain to each other why Ukraine does not take the same position as Russia does, and to make it clear that pressure and diktat will be of no use to anyone today." He said he would categorically refuse to discuss with Yeltsin the status of Sevastopol. "Historically and politically, Sevastopol, as the rest of the Crimea, is part and parcel of Ukraine," he said.

Commenting on his visit to Israel, Kravchuk said there is complete mutual understanding between the two countries as regards their relations with each other. "We have managed to establish equal and mutually beneficial relations with Israel at the state level," he said.

"Jerusalem is indeed a holy land. All countries in the world have something in common with it," Kravchuk said.

Defense Minister To Take Part in Yelstin Talks

OW1401181393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the Ukrainian President in Kiev reported to an INTERFAX correspondent that the republic's President recalled Konstantin Morozov, the Ukrainian Defense Minister, from his leave in order he together with Leonid Kravchuk and Anatoliy Zlenko, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, could depart for Moscow to participate in the negotiations with the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin.

Security Guarantee With Russia Not Yet Discussed

OW1401182393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a discussion with INTERFAX, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister and Chairman of the National Committee on Nuclear Disarmament Issues Borys Tarasyuk called unfounded the reports which appeared in the foreign press of alleged working negotiations which began January 12 between Russia and Ukraine on Russia's guarantee of Ukraine's nuclear security.

"So far there are neither Russian nor Ukrainian working groups," said Tarasyuk. "No documents have even been prepared." Tarasyuk reported that on Wednesday he received Skvortsov, a special envoy to the Russian foreign minister, and together they discussed the texts of the Russian-American treaty on nuclear arms reduction and Ukraine's role in the negotiations process.

The issue of Ukraine's security guarantee from Russia was not raised, he said.

Industrial Defense Agreement With Russia Viewed

LD1401155093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Today in Kiev at the Ukraine's Ministry of Machine Building, Military Industrial Complex and Conversion an agreement on economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Ukraine and Russia was signed.

The procedure of signing of this agreement between the Ukraine's Ministry of Machine Building, Military Industrial Complex and Conversion and Ukraine's Defense Ministry on the one side, and the Russian Federation's Committee on Defense Branches of Industry and Russia's Defense Ministry on the other, lasted only several minutes.

However, the preliminary negotiations between the two delegations were very difficult but businesslike and ended yesterday late at night. Even today in the morning the members of the delegations of Ukraine and Russia were finalizing certain details of this very important document for the two states. And finally today at about afternoon the agreement was signed by the leaders of the two delegations, Viktor Antonov on the Ukrainian side, and by Viktor Glukhikh on the Russian side. After the signing, according to a tradition, all present at the ceremony raised crystal glasses holding champagne.

Our reporter asked the head of the Ukrainian delegation Viktor Antonov why it was necessary to sign one more agreement after having signed a similar agreement last April. Viktor Antonov said the following:

[Antonov's statement read by unidentified announcer] The previous agreement was blocked by Marshal Shaposhnikov and his adherents. But now the imperial ambitions on the part of Russia are gradually dying away, so we hope that the new agreement which we have signed for a term of five years will really function. According to the new agreement the economic ties are envisaged to be maintained mainly between the enterprises, amalgamations and organizations in conformity with the legal acts of the two states, on the basis of mutual benefit and prevention of actions which would make an economic harm to each other. The two sides pledged to carry out a research work, mutually [as heard] delivery of armaments and military equipment of (several produce), to carry out a single policy in the sphere of standardization, metrology and certifications, to preserve the existing order of supplying enterprises with the necessary documentation, to maintain technical service. Ukraine and Russia believe it necessary to open corresponding bank accounts and to form branches of the banking establishment aimed at speeding calculation operations between enterprises of Ukraine and Russia's defense branches, said Mr. Antonov.

The Russian delegation also had a meeting with Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

Glukhikh Comments on Talks

LD1501100593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—"Russia and Ukraine will not survive without each other. I was very glad that the Ukrainian side is fully aware of it, and we have agreed that it is high time to stop the confrontation and to work hand-in-hand," Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Defence Industries Committee, who visited Ukraine at the head of a Russian delegation from January 12-14, told ITAR-TASS. He also said that the main purpose of the visit was to get things straight with the Ukrainian colleagues.

"In the course of the visit," Glukhikh said, "we were able to sign a large number of documents aimed at strengthening and further promoting cooperation among the defence enterprises of Russia and Ukraine in the sphere of aircraft-building, missile and space technology, production of aircraft motors and radio-electronic equipment. Although the largest aircraft building factories and plants for producing aircraft motors are located in Ukraine, the Ukrainian industry is unable to continue corresponding programmes independently, without Russian partners."

"I am most concerned about financial matters today," Glukhikh said, "because the industrialists are ready and want to cooperate, but very often even enterprises possessing the necessary money cannot make payments for the delivered goods." The head of the Russian delegation believes that a way out of the present difficulties is to set up a Russo-Ukrainian industrial bank. Agreement in principle has been reached on this score between the two sides during the delegation's meeting Viktor Antonov, the Ukrainian minister for machine-building, defence complex and conversion.

Supreme Soviet Hits Russian Resolution on Sevastopol

WS1301133993 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Statement by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium issued on 9 December 1992]

[Text] On 5 December 1992 the Seventh Congress of the People's Deputies of Russian Federation adopted the resolution charging the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation with the revision of the status of the city of Sevastopol.

This decision cannot fail to be regarded as another overt attempt to question Ukrainian territorial integrity. It also represents a flagrant violation of the spirit and the letter of the agreements ratified by the Supreme Soviet of Russia, among them the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty of 19 November 1990 and the Agreement on the Creation of the CIS of 8 December 1991, which state that Russia and Ukraine mutually acknowledge and respect their territorial integrity and inviolability of the existing borders.

The decision clearly interferes in Ukrainian internal affairs, and is directed against the historically friendly, mutually respectful, and good-neighborly relations between the Ukrainian and Russian people. It counters the development of interstate relations between Ukraine and Russia on the basis of equal cooperation and partnership.

In this connection, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium declares that any designs on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity will be treated as a flagrant violation of the European status-quo, the UN Charter, the CSCE principles, and other generally accepted norms of international law. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium firmly rejects the attempts to artificially create another problem in the relations between the two countries. The city of Sevastopol is an integral part of Ukraine. Its status can be determined only by Ukraine and not by any other state.

[Dated] 9 Dec 1992

Reaction to Russia 'Inadequate'

WS1401134293 Kiev RADA in Ukrainian 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Report from the "News and Facts" column; attributed to RUKH-PRESS]

[Text] S. Holovatyy, member of Rukh's Central Command, has described as "incomprehensible" the reaction

of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the declaration by the Congress of the People's Deputies of Russia on the revision of the status of Sevastopol. The adoption of a protocol charging the Russian Supreme Soviet with the task of examining this issue, regardless of the results of this examination, should be treated by Ukraine as interference in its internal affairs and a violation of one of the United Nation's basic principles. The memorandum by the Ministry as well as the declaration by the Supreme Soviet Presidium are not an adequate reaction to the actions of the Russian party. S. Holovatyy pointed out: "When a threat to the state's political stability and territorial integrity emerges, we should use international legal mechanisms: turn to the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. I am surprised that it has not been done before."

Trade, Economic Commission To Be Formed With Poland

LD1401132493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting of ministers of foreign economic ties of Ukraine and Poland took place in Kiev on 13 January within the framework of the working visit of that country's prime minister to our country.

As a result of the meeting the Polish Minister Andrzej Arendarski and the Ukrainian Minister Ivan Herts agreed that a Polish-Ukrainian joint commission on trade and economic cooperation will begin its work in February. Both ministers expressed the view that reaching the level of the former Polish-Soviet cooperation is the primary task in the development of Polish-Ukrainian economic ties which declined with the fall of the USSR.

A certain obstacle in the economic relations between Poland and Ukraine is the vague idea of how Ukraine will take part in paying off the foreign debt of the former USSR in parts of Poland. Andrzej Arendarski and Ivan Herts believe that these problems can be solved by corresponding balancing of mutual shipments by enterprises of both countries.

Weapons Sales Possible

OW1501092893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian and Polish ministers of foreign economic relations met in Kiev January 12th, where they agreed that a Polish-Ukrainian joint committee on trade and economic cooperation will begin operating in February of this year. The ministers called for the restoring of economic cooperation to its previous prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Uncertainty over Ukraine's participation in the repayment of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt, in particular to Poland, is hindering economic cooperation between the two nations. The ministers said this problem can be solved by balancing shipments between Polish and Ukrainian firms. The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is currently examining the debts of Ukrainian enterprises to Polish firms. Ukraine plans to have complete data on the debts by the joint committee's first meeting in February, which will enable the committee to discuss financial issues more practically.

The Polish minister said the joint committee may also discuss the purchase of weapons from Ukraine.

Israel Ties, Kravchuk Visit Detailed

PM1401144793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 3

[Aleksey Portanskiy report: "Kiev and Tel Aviv Exchange Ambassadors"]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Israel was marked by the signing in Jerusalem of a memorandum on mutual understanding and the basic principles for cooperation between Ukraine and Israel, as well as of intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the area of education and culture, and a protocol on consultations between the two countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

In the course of the the Ukrainian president's meetings with Israel's President H. Herzog and Prime Minister Y. Rabin it was emphasized that relations between the two countries should be long term, forward looking, and independent of circumstances.

In speeches addressed to one another, the Ukrainian and Israeli leaders did not just formally express their readiness to develop bilateral relations, as is accepted in such cases. In Kravchuk's words, it is especially the fact that both peoples were for centuries deprived of the opportunity to form their own states that brings them close together. Having expressed his gratitude to Israel for being one of the first to recognize Ukraine's independence as a state and for having established diplomatic relations with it, President Kravchuk stated, when addressing the Knesset, that his country is not going to hush up the dark episodes in its history. They concern the sufferings which were visited upon Jews in Ukraine during World War II. It is necessary to reassess this past and explain it so that such terrors can never happen again.

Leonid Kravchuk laid a wreath at the "Yad Vashem" memorial, which was erected in memory of the 6 million Jews whom the Nazis tortured to death during World War II. As AFP reports, Kravchuk was accompanied at this ceremony by seven Ukrainians who had been awarded the "Yad Vashem" medal for rescuing Jews during the war.

According to the Ukrainian president, Kiev regards relations with Israel as a priority area of Ukraine's Near East policy, whose interests are served by peace and stability in the region. Ukraine's significant economic

potential and its large internal market is attracting Israelis. Ukraine intends to use Israel's experience in setting up a market economy and a banking system, and in attracting foreign capital.

During Kravchuk's visit to Israel the decision was announced to open direct air routes to link Tel Aviv with Kiev and Odessa. Ukraine will also open an embassy in Tel Aviv, as will Israel in Kiev.

Kuchma Discusses Cooperation With Hungarian Envoy

OW1001204793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The relations between Ukraine and Hungary are developing more dynamic than with the other western neighbors, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Leonid Kuchma, pointed out during his meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador to Kiev, Istvan Varga.

Leonid Kuchma underlined that the Hungarian experience in economic reforms is important for Ukraine.

Istvan Varga noted that Ukraine and Hungary have great opportunities for cooperation in the machine building, agriculture, science, and culture.

The Hungarian Ambassador positively assessed Ukraine's policy with respect to the Hungarian national minority. About 150 thousands of the Hungarians live in Ukraine mainly in Transcarpathia.

In his interview with an INTERFAX correspondent Istvan Varga declared that the contacts between the bordering territories of both states should play a special role in the development of the bilateral relations. According to Varga, Hungary is interested in the creation of a free economic zone in Transcarpathia. At the same time he pointed out that serious difficulties in inter-state mutual accounts are caused by the absence of an official exchange rate of karbovanets to forint.

Varga also reported that in the near future Hungary would sign a treaty with Ukraine which would regulate the order of crossing of the Hungarian-Ukrainian border and an agreement to return the citizens who illegally crossed the border between tow states to the Ukrainian territory.

Lithuania Said Interested in Strengthening Ties

WS1101133093 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 9 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by UKRINFORM correspondent V. Chernyshuk: "For Cooperation With Ukraine"]

[Text] Lithuania has received its fifth prime minister, the 54-year-old engineer Bronislovas Lubys, on the 1,000th day of its independence. He has liberal views—he upheld the interests of liberal faction in the Lithuanian legislature. Algirdas Brazauskas, acting president of the Lithuanian Republic, obliged him to form a new government within 15 days.

As a man who has an excellent knowledge of the country's economy—he is president of the Lithuanian Industrialists' Association—B. Lubys stands for closer cooperation with Ukraine, which meets with the approval of the majority in the Seimas. According to the opinion held in the legislative lobby, priority in foreign economic activities will be given to broadening ties with Latvia, Estonia, and Ukraine. Lithuanian economists believe that joint economic programs with these countries will help them avoid dependence on Russian dictate, especially Russian raw materials, and provide a reliable shelter against economic and political upheavals in the East.

The Baltics and Ukraine have many common interests. For example, Lithuania is interested in the fast connections with the Mediterranean, African, and Middle East countries that Ukrainian Black Sea ports can provide. Through the seaport in Klaipeda, Lithuania can conveniently connect Ukraine with the Scandinavian, Northern, and northwestern European countries. Lithuanian entrepreneurs are eager to set up Lithuanian-Ukrainian joint ventures and open Ukrainian trade chambers in their republic. But the Ukrainian companies are not so aggressive. Unlike small entrepreneurs and farmers increasingly flocking to the Lithuanian market places, their penetration of this market is far from bold. Due to their good quality and moderate price, the goods of those entrepreneurs and farmers are in great demand. They sell many products: vegetable oil, cream, butter, cereals, margarine, fruit, etc. However, Lithuanians still remember other kinds of goods from Ukraine: television sets, machines, equipment... So does the new prime minister.

Deputy Minister Views COCOM Ban as 'Discrimination'

WS0801133493 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 8 Dec 92 p 1

[Article by N. Vasylyuk from the "Big Politics" rubric: "Will Ukraine Trade Arms?"]

[Text] At the end of November, a conference of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls [COCOM] of strategic materials took place in Paris. It dealt with arms trade. The Committee was founded in 1950 to ban strategic arms trade with socialist countries. During the "cold war," the West's stance was easy to explain, but today, when principal changes in international relations have taken place, the Coordinating Committee has to revise it.

The forum gathered 17 members, seven observing, and nine invited countries. Among the latter were the states embraced by the Committee's ban. It is natural that Ukraine was also invited. Our country was represented

by the delegation headed by Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Tarasyuk. He agreed to speak on his visit at a briefing for Ukrainian and foreign reporters at the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The members of the Committee discussed guarantees given by arms trading countries. It is envisioned that after considering them, the Committee will abolish the existing limitations. However, the problem will remain unsolved until 1993, when the next session of the Coordinating Committee is convened.

"Ukraine's attitude toward the Committee's activity could be expressed in a few words," said Mr. Tarasyuk: "We regard the ban on strategic materials trade with Ukraine as discrimination".

National Affairs

Chernobyl Plant Director Reports Second Fire

LD1401141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, January 14 TASS—A second incident in the last three days was reported at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Thursday [14 January], according to a report of the UKRINFORM news agency from Kiev.

UKRINFORM quoted a rather confusing statement of the director of the plant, Nikolay Sorokin, who explained that smoke appeared early in the day "in the ventilation corridor outside the servicing zone of the 'shelter' object of the plant" after "two wooden elements went on fire".

It was not clear whether the "shelter" object means the sarcophagus which covered the fourth reactor of the plant after it exploded in 1986 causing the world's worst nuclear accident. It was not explained why the fire occurred.

The agency said the radioactive level did not exceed the existing sanitary norms outside the "shelter" object. Preliminary estimates say the incident is of zero point according to the INES [International Nuclear Events Scale] scale, it reported, adding that the norms of safe exploitation of the plant were not violated and nobody was hurt. The working regime of reactors did not change.

On January 12 smoke appeared at the Chernobyl plant after a short circuit in an electric board between the first and the second reactors. The incident was assesssed at zero-point according to the INES scale.

Impact of Kravchuk Directive on Citizenship Pondered

PM1401143593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Ilya Lakhno report: "Whose Citizen Are You?"]

[Text] Kharkov—This ominous cry has been ringing in the ears of Ukrainian residents since President Kravchuk's directive No. 60 was issued in April. The directive points out that, as of 1 January 1993, people aged 16 and above whose passports do not bear the stamp "Citizen of Ukraine" will be regarded as stateless persons with all the consequences that this entails.

There is something ominously familiar about this ruling, especially for those peoples who were victims of the repressions. The Germans, Chechens, Kalmyks, and representatives of other peoples exiled to Siberia, Kazakhstan, and the republics of Central Asia had their passports endorsed with a stamp forbidding them from leaving their given location, or even had their passports taken away entirely. In Ukraine henceforth the absence of a citizenship entry in the passport will make it very difficult to enter or leave the republic. In addition, such people are automatically deprived of many of the constitutional rights of Ukrainian citizens. First and foremost they will be denied the right to private ownership of housing, will not be given certificates for the privatization of property—Ukrainian vouchers, and will have considerable difficulties in their dealings with state institutions, banks, and the customs service... They will effectively become persona non grata in their own land.

Meanwhile, according to information from Kharkov Oblast Internal Affairs Administration Passport Department, some 450,000 of its adult inhabitants are in no hurry at the moment to have their passports stamped because they are hoping that the republic's Supreme Soviet will adopt a law on dual citizenship. But these are vain hopes, apparently. Unless you have the appropriate entry in your passport, as of 1 January 1993 you are nobody: A person without citizenship, without a motherland. In other words, an outcast. It would be interesting to know whether this act conforms with international human rights, would it not?

Kravchuk Abolishes Ministry, Dismisses Minister

AU1401215193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Jan 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on the Dismissal of Ukraine's Minister of Investments and Construction from His Post" issued in on 30 December 1992]

[Text] To dismiss Borysovskyy, Volodymyr Zakharovych, from the post of Ukraine's minister of investments and construction in connection with the abolishment of Ukraine's Ministry of Investments and Construction.

[Signed] Ukraine's President L. Kravchuk

[Dated] Kiev, 30 December 1992

Officers Union Chairman Defends Defense Minister

LD1401145093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Hryhoriy Omelchenko, chairman of the Officers' Union of Ukraine, is of the opinion that the activities of certain people's deputies of Ukraine aimed at discrediting Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov are nothing but a purposeful action.

It is not at all to some people's liking that the defense minister proceeds from clear positions of the creation of the independent armed forces of Ukraine. In addition, he has commenced an uncompromising struggle against corruption in the national Armed Forces of Ukraine.

[Begin Omelchenko recording] I can show you dozens of orders by the minister of defense whereby dozens of generals and colonels were discharged from the office held. I have got them here, in front of you. You can see that none of the heads of the former Kiev Military District have been appointed to the apparatus of the Ministry of Defense. They have been discharged from the office held for reasons of abuses and other violations of law.

Two forces have united, i.e. the political forces which (?advocate) the creation of the united Armed Forces and the return of Ukraine to the bosom of the Soviet Union under any pretext, and those mafia-type political forces which want to remove the defense minister because he discharged them from the office held. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Crimean Communists Increase Activity

AU1401124993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Jan 93 p 14

[Article by Oleksandr Pilat, HOLOS UKRAYINY special correspondent, from the Crimea: "Socialism in the Crimea Takes Different Forms, But It Is Real"]

[Text] **On New Year's Eve, the peninsula's political parties of a neo-Bolshevik orientation turned to the Crimeans with a number of appeals. Their leaders deliver speeches in labor collectives and at spontaneous rallies. Even though the passions around Sevastopol have subsided somewhat, Socialists and Communists are striving to fill the vacuum. They come out in favor of the restoration of the USSR and believe that this process must start precisely from Sevastopol.**

Communists—among the construction workers of Sevastopol—held a constituent meeting. It was decided to create a territorial organization of the Union of Communists of the Crimea. Leonid Grach, chairman of the Union, delivered a speech at the meeting. He also met with the collective of the local organization of Ukraine's Socialist Party.

Today, socialist and communist party organizations exist in virtually all towns and rayon centers of the peninsula. In some regions, such organizations are headed by the council chairmen and executive committees. Party organizations of communist orientation were and still are created at industrial enterprises and on collective and state farms.

The main policy goals of Communists and Socialists are supported by the Republican Party of the Crimea—the party of the Republican Movement of the Crimea. At its meeting, the coordination council of this party adopted an appeal to the Crimean Supreme Council. Ukraine's law, the appeal reads, On the Ukrainian Presidential Mission in the Crimean Republic means that Ukraine has unilaterally violated the obligations undertaken by both sides, as stipulated in the mutually coordinated and adopted Law on the Division of Powers Between Ukraine and the Crimean Republic. Furthermore, at the level of the highest legislative body—Ukraine's Supreme Council—an attempt is being made to change unilaterally the constitutional order of the Crimean Republic.

The Republican Party of the Crimea proposes that the Crimean Supreme Council temporarily suspends the action of the Law on the Division of Powers and other juridical obligations of the Crimean Republic to Ukraine. In order to conduct consultations in connection with the situation that has taken shape, the Republican Party of the Crimea recommends that a plenipotentiary delegation of the Supreme Council of the Crimean Republic be formed and that "the delegation immediately start negotiations with the leadership and with the supreme councils of Ukraine and the Russian Federation—the guarantors of the statehood of the Crimean Republic." It was decided to inform the heads of member states of the CIS about this. The Republican Party of the Crimea demands the immediate convocation of an extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament "on the question of interaction with Ukraine and members of the CIS."

The appeal ends as follows: "The Republican Party of the Crimea—the party of the Republican Movement of the Crimea—appealing to the Crimean Supreme Council on behalf of the people of the Crimea who were until 1954 and continue to remain a part of the people of Russia, insists on taking urgent measures in order to rule out any infringement upon the lawful rights and interests of the citizens of the Crimea and see to it that the obligations taken upon itself by the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation, as a guarantor of the statehood of the Crimean Republic, be implemented."

On 27 December, in Simferopol's Lenin Square, supporters of the restoration of the USSR assembled. They are members of the Union of Communists of the Crimea, of the regional branch of the All-Union Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), and of the local organization of the Communist Workers Party of the Crimea. They held flags of the former USSR and of monarchist Russia and portraits of Stalin. The speakers demanded

that the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan renounce their agreements regarding the CIS and restore the Soviet Union. People's deputy of the Crimean Republic Lilya Levchenko declared that "if Ukraine is so keen on having its own state, it may create it on the territory of six oblasts—Lvov, Ivano-Frankovsk, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Volyn, and Rivne. The remaining 18 oblasts and the Crimean Republic are the territory of Russia." The participants in the meeting turned to the heads of state of the CIS with a demand "to disband the CIS and to create, instead, the USSR of new type." As we can see, the appetites of the Russian jingoists are not diminishing....

Formally, the Party of the Economic Revival of the Crimea is not aligned with Communists, Socialists, or Republicans. The presidium of its Political Council appealed to the Supreme Council of the Crimea. The appeal places emphasis on the nonfulfillment of laws, the disruption of economic ties, the blockage of financial arteries, and the adoption of decrees and legislative acts that undermine the interests of producers in industry and agriculture. The appeal stresses that the critical situation on the peninsula is being further exacerbated as a result of the constitutional crisis and that "the citizens of the Crimea are being confronted with the nonfulfillment of the Crimean Republic's Constitution by both legislative and executive organs." Unlike the parliament of Ukraine, the appeal reads, the Crimean Supreme Council has not had the courage to carry out the radical formation of the executive power, despite the fact that the term of office of the provisional Council of Ministers of the Crimea expired immediately after the adoption of the Constitution. Moreover, a paradoxical situation has taken shape in which the unconstitutional executive organ has entered into confrontation with the legislative power and is persistently striving to implement the Constitution.

The presidium of the Political Council of the Party of the Economic Revival of the Crimea appeals to the people's deputies calling upon them to demand that an extraordinary session of the Crimean Supreme Council be convened in order to adopt a package of laws necessary for the formation of constitutional organs of power and for the government to enjoy popular confidence.

Donetsk Miners Demand Higher Wages, Threaten Strike

OW1401133593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1224 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Donetsk Union of Coal-Industry Workers and the Independent Union of Miners sent an appeal to the Ukrainian president, parliament and government, demanding that their minimum wage be raised to the level of the minimum consumer's budget, with due account taken of the local peculiarities of the market.

The trade unions demand that their average wages be increased proportionally to the growth of the minimum wage, and propose that delays in the payment of their wages be qualified as workers' credit to the enterprise and be paid to them at interest.

The appeal says that if by January 16, the Ukrainian leaders do not fix the date for the talks with the trade unions, they will resort to protest actions.

Appeal Made to Kravchuk Over Future in CIS

LD1401202793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1650 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the "CIS News" program]

[Text] Representatives of the Ukrainian parties, trade unions and public groups, meeting in the coal mining city of Donetsk, have spoken out against the country's withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States. In an appeal to President Kravchuk, Prime Minister Kuchma, and the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, Mr. Plyushch, they voiced serious concern over the government's position on the future of the Commonwealth. The appeal says that the issue must be the subject of discussion by the Ukrainian parliament.

Pro-Russian Rally Calls for CIS Membership

LD1501021393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A pro-Russian rally was held today at the Lugansk Diesel Locomotive [LuhanskTeplovoz] Association. Its participants demanded that the CIS statute be signed, dual citizenship and Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism be introduced, and that the head of the Ukrainian state resign and that the presidential form of government be abolished.

According to some reports, this assembly was organized by a local branch of the Socialist Party. It was planned to transform the rally into a demonstration that was to have been joined by representatives of other enterprises.

Since this was unsuccessful, those who took the initiative in staging the rally will try and organize support for their resolution at enterprises in Lugansk.

Kuzbass Complex Given 900 Million Rubles in Credits

LD1401205893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The agro-industrial complex of the Kuzbass has been allocated credits amounting to 900 million rubles. The relevant instruction was signed by Mikhayl Kislyuk, the head of administration of Kemerovo Oblast. The POSTFAKTUM news agency reports that 400 million rubles are being allocated for the purchase of grain.

Almost all of the remaining sum is being handed over to farms, including small holdings, for the purchase of combine harvesters.

Political Leader Satisfied With Organization's Work

OW1501131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the New Ukraine association, Vladimir Filenko, said Ukraine was at least a year late in beginning its economic reforms. That, in his view, weakened the reforms' social basis.

Speaking on Thursday [14 January] at a press conference in Kiev held on occasion of New Ukraine's first anniversary, Filenko voiced support for the reform policy of Leonid Kuchma's cabinet but said the reforms lacked dynamics.

He expressed concern about the "revanchist" aspirations of communist forces, especially their mounting activity in the east and south of the republic.

New Ukraine has proved "viable" over the year that it has existed, Filenko said, naming as its principal achievements its forming, jointly with the Popular Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka], the New Parliament for Independent Ukraine coalition, which organized a campaign for a referendum on confidence in the present Ukrainian parliament, and the organization's active participation in the campaign for the dismissal of Vitold Fokin's cabinet.

New Ukraine will have its second congress in Kiev on February 12- 13, Filenko said.

Belarus

Washington To Install 'Hot Line' With Minsk

WS1401134793 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1139 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] As well-informed sources have reported, representatives of U.S. firms dealing with the installation of intergovernment communications via satellite are holding talks with their Belarusian colleagues, including the military, in Minsk. They are proposing to install a "hot line" between Minsk and Washington. When at the beginning of the talks the Belarusian side stated that it had no funds for such a grand project due to economic difficulties, the Americans suggested installing transmission facilities both in Belarus and beyond the ocean on their own. The maintenance of the government "booth" in Minsk was proposed to Belarusian military specialists who have accumulated great experience in similar systems.

Military Continues Arms Reduction at Stankovo

WS1401134593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0649 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] According to the agreement on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Belarus is proceeding with the reduction of its military machinery and technology. The Defense Ministry Press Center has informed a BELINFORM correspondent that today, the military has begun its work at Stankovo. It must dismantle 24 armored vehicles in a month here. In general, more than 300 armored carriers are subject to reduction.

The remaining metal will go for remelting. The armament and facilities will be used to replenish the repair fund.

According to the National Agency for Control and Inspection at the Belarusian Defense Ministry, an inspective FRG group has arrived to supervise the destruction of armored carriers.

Government Resolution Establishes Railway Troops

WS1401133393 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1109 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution establishing Railway Troops on the basis of the former railway brigade and units that composed the brigade. In light of the fact that Belarus has a big railway network, servicemen and the Department of Railway Troops, established by the resolution, will have much work not only in the sphere of facilitating military transport.

Government Decrees Pay Increase for Servicemen

PM1401113593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Salaries in Belarusian Army Increased According to Military Rank"]

[Text] Minsk—The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus has adopted a decree increasing, as of 1 January 1993, the salaries of officers, ensigns, and extended-duty servicemen in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus according to military rank. They have, on average, been doubled.

Thus, a lieutenant will now receive in-grade pay of 1,600 rubles [R] instead of the former R800, a major will get R2,400 (R1,200 prior to the increase), and a colonel will get R3,400 (previously R2,700).

Shushkevich Press Conference on PRC Trip Viewed

OW1401224993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus and China have similar political approaches to many issues, claimed chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Council, Stanislav Shushkevich, at a press conference Wednesday [13 January] in Minsk. Shushkevich met with journalists upon completing an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

Among the issues on which the two sides have parallel stances, Shushkevich especially singled out their common goals of maintaining peace and their policies of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states.

In response to a question from an INTERFAX correspondent as to whether Belarus and China have common military interests, Shushkevich said that since Belarus announced its desire to become a nuclear-free, neutral state and not participate in any military unions, the possibility of signing any military agreements was not discussed at the negotiations in Beijing. Nor did they discuss, he said, the possible sale of arms manufactured in Belarusian defense industry enterprises to China. On the contrary, during the negotiations, the head of parliament reported, they discussed China's participation in the conversion program in Belarus.

Shushkevich claimed the trip to Beijing was entirely productive. Several documents which he considered of highest importance were signed. Among them were an accord on mutual investment protection, an agreement on the visa-free travel of Belarusian and Chinese citizens in and out of the two countries, and a consular convention.

Shushkevich said Belarus would open an embassy in Beijing in the very near future.

Shushkevich considers the Belarusian parliament's decision not to rush the adoption of a law on free economic zones a wise one. He became convinced of this after visiting one such zone in China. "Even China's foremost experience should not be followed mechanically," believes the Belarusian leader. He explained this by citing the specific economic and political systems of the two states. Before adopting any innovation, "we must adapt it to the conditions in Belarus," said Shushkevich.

The parliamentary chairman indicated that he liked the taxation system in China. He especially noted the provision in the country's legislation requiring that 50% of the taxes taken from the revenues of Chinese enterprises be directed to the development of Chinese industry. Shushkevich spoke in favor of introducing similar correctives into Belarusian legislation.

Economic Planning Committee Refutes Price Rise Rumors

LD1401234593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] As a BELINFORM correspondent was told at the department of prices at the State Economic Planning Committee of the Republic of Belarus, the rumors about a scheduled rise of state prices on foodstuffs are groundless. Retail prices on main types of bread and grain products and milk and dairy products, including sour cream, cottage cheese, and children's dairy products, will remain unchanged during the first quarter of 1993. The rumors of a rise beginning 15 January 1993 in retail prices on pork, beef, (?various) sausage products, butter, and white vodka are also groundless.

Moldova

Diplomatic, Official Passports Annulled 15 Jan

OW1401195893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing on Thursday [14 January] in Chisinau Ion Yeshanu, the deputy Foreign Minister of Moldova, reported that beginning Friday Moldova annuls all diplomatic and official passports. New ones will be issued only in accordance with the government's decision to a restricted number of persons who have officially adopted the citizenship of Moldova.

According to Yeshanu, all formalities to receive the civil passport to go abroad have been abolished: it is necessary to present an application and to pay a tariff equal to the minimal wage (1700 rubles).

He also noted that a general passport was scheduled to be introduced beginning January 15, it will function in the republic and outside its borders. However, at present it appeared impossible to introduce this document due to the absence of currency funds to pay the work of a Hungarian enterprise which is producing the passports. The general passport will probably be introduced in Moldova in some months.

Ion Yeshanu also reported that the Moldovan citizens can depart without any visas to the former socialist countries and the CIS republics.

The deputy Foreign minister of Moldova said that the absence of the Moldovan consulates and missions abroad makes the work with the foreign citizens more difficult. However, in his words, this problem will partially be solved by means of the opening of consulate sections in the Chisinau airport and at two customs points which will issue departure visas to the Moldovan citizens and entry visas to the foreigners.

Russia To Grant Citizenship to Dniester Residents

AU1401152393 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 8 Jan 93 p 4

[BASA PRESS report: "Lebed: The Residents of Transdniestria Will Become Russian Citizens"]

[Text] In the next weeks, Russia will open a consulate next to the General Staff Headquarters of the 14th Army in Tiraspol. The consulate will be in charge of granting Russian citizenship to the inhabitants of the Dniester Region, said the commander of the 14th Army, General Lebed, during a meeting that he held with the working collective of the "Kirov" Iron Casting Machine Company. General Lebed estimated that the Russian 14th Army will stay in the Dniester Region for the next 10-15 years. Currently, 47 percent of the officers and 90 percent of the warrant officers of the 14th Army originally come from the Dniester Region and thus none of them will leave for Russia, Lebed emphasized, adding that 66 percent of the recruits for the Russian Army, of whom the majority are indigenous to the region, are doing their military service voluntarily.

During the meeting, General Aleksander Lebed reiterated his previous statements that among the military units directly subordinate to him there is Missile Brigade 189 deployed at Balti, whose 116 officers and warrant officers have taken the oath of allegiance to Russia. The commander of the 14th Army affirmed that this brigade in Balti will be moved to the Saratov Region in Russia. Previously, the press secretariat of the Moldovan Ministry of Defense called this declaration "General Lebed's provocative disinformation" and noted that all military units on the left bank of the Dniester River are subordinate to Moldova's Defense Ministry.

Commander on Dniester's Independence

AU1401151693 Bucharest COTIDIANUL in Romanian 7 Jan 93 p 8

[Dan Spanily article: "General Lebed Accuses the United States"]

[Text] On 4 January, during a meeting with the working collective of the Tiraspol Iron Casting Machine Company, General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, vehemently criticized the policy promoted by the United States toward Russia and Transdniestria. General Lebed allows himself to affirm that the ambassador of the United States in Moldova is "an average woman," because she refused to visit the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic upon the invitation of the Tiraspol authorities. Likewise, Lebed said that it would be advisable to erect a monument to Bush, the winner of the Cold War, in Moscow, on the spot where Dzerzhinsky's monument used to stand.

The commander of the 14th Army also mentioned that Russia helped and continues to help the self-proclaimed republic on the Dniester River, the only obstacle being the geographical position of Transdniestria because sometimes Ukraine does not allow or delays the transit of goods or flights over its territory. General Lebed believes that the "people of Transdniestria" have determined their destiny through the referendum and that from now on, one can talk only about its complete independence, about it joining Russia, or about it linking itself to Moscow on a confederation principle. The Russian commander recalled the precedent of the Kaliningrad region, which, though isolated from Russia by other territories, nonetheless became part of it, and he referred to the decisions of the Congress of Moldovans in Transdniestria, which maintained that they represent 40 percent of its population, and also said that their wish for union with Russia must be fulfilled.

Lebed believes that today it would be too early to make statements on the situation in Moldova and the Dniester region, because the situation is still not definite. "Many things remain unclear there" said Lebed to the newspaper ROSSISKAYA GAZETA. The commander of the 14th Russian Army also believes that "negotiations could have been raised a long time ago to a higher level, to the state level." "The Dniester crisis is singular because, as a matter of fact, here we are not talking about any inter-ethnic conflict, in the true sense of the word" Lebed claims, and immediately he contradicts himself by adding that: "The boosted nationalism on the right side of the river and of the republic is unfavorable to the cause of the Russian-speaking population."

Ignoring the fact that Lebed talks odds and ends, it is more serious that this uncivilized person is tolerated with all his insulting worthless statements and even threats. Thus, Lebed states that: "Since there has been a decision to use troops, it is necessary to put an end to all these diplomatic ploys and tricks and the state should be spared from vagabond autocrats and adventurers, who must be well aware of the fact that they will always be kept under surveillance and they do not live in a vacuum."

It is clear that Moscow not only tolerates Lebed's actions and commentaries, but that it is even pleased by the way in which he plays his well defined role. Here is an example of what Lebed and those who sent him to his current post in Bessarabia, think about real democracy: "I have always supported and will continue to support everything that I believe are true manifestations of democracy. The Moldovan Dniester Republic is an expression of the will of the people. This republic is really here and will stay here for many years to come," Lebed said in conclusion in his usual Stalinist-imperialist style.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Speaks on Situation in Agriculture

OW1401225093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Appearing at the meeting with the workers of the republic's agrarian-industrial complex, Nursultan Nazarbayev declared that one fifth of the enterprises of the agrarian-industrial complex has already been transformed into structures with non-state forms of ownership. More than 4.5 thousand agrarian farms have been formed mainly thanks to the allocation of a special land fund for those who wish to work independently.

The President analyzed the situation existing in Kazakhstan's agriculture and the process of economic reform in the village. According to Nazarbayev, at present the private sector owns about 50 thousand cows and one million sheep.

At the same time Nazarbayev recognized that the agrarian sector cannot exist without donations. Last year 18 billion 300 million rubles were allocated to the agriculture from the state budget, this year 84 billion rubles are planned to be channeled in this branch. According to the President, there are several collective farms in which these funds are used "only to cover the mismanagement" and one can hardly expect that the people there will really start the process of reforms.

Nowadays the situation has been softened by a record grain harvest of 1992. The head of the state assured that the net income from its realization should constitute 64 billion 300 million rubles. He reminded that while releasing the purchasing prices for grain it was foreseen to conduct the accounts with the farms on a stage-by-stage basis, it would assist in exploitation of only the existing credits and would prevent a sharp increase of prices for bread.

Now, the President declared, the third stage of the accounts for the harvest begins - the realization of the grain outside the republic's borders. As we promised, he reassured, the profit gained from the realization will be returned to the farms - in the form of money or equipment, agricultural machines, and fertilizers. Nazarbayev proposed to use the existing 3 million tons of surplus grain to speed up the economic and structural reforms in the village.

The government will recommend to which regions of the CIS countries the farms should send the grain and will name the quotas, the head of the state underlined, and the farms themselves can conclude agreements with the consumers either through mediators or directly themselves. In Nazarbayev's words, it is necessary to observe the only provision - the appointed prices should be not lower than those agreed with the concern "Kazkhlebproduct". Nazarbayev believes that such order will be beneficial for the farms-producers and will help to set off the exported harvest on the balance of the inter-state agreements; this will strengthen the republic's economic ties with the CIS countries, Nazarbayev said.

The President reported that the republic completed the formation of the vertical structures of the land service - Goskomzem. Now its territorial bodies should directly start the realization of the land reform - to conduct the monitoring of lands, land cadastre, and land development. Necessary work aimed at the determination and confirmation of average land shares for every worker in every collective and soviet farm will be conducted in the near future.

At the same time Nazarbayev recognized that as before this year the republic intends to introduce the state order for grain, milk, meat, and some kinds of cattle-breeding production.

Kyrgyzstan

Reports on Tajikistan Border Disturbances Denied

LD1201075293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0705 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek, 12 Jan—"The situation in Dzergetalskiy rayon bordering on Tajikistan is stable and there have been no excesses," the republican committee on national security has assured a KYRGYZKABAR correspondent. Kabay Karabekov, head of the Kyrgyzstan president's press service, also denied reports circulated yesterday by some mass media saying the situation on the border between the two republics had been exacerbated.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1549 GMT on 11 January transmits a service message, killing the item headlined, "Tajik Opposition Forces Cross Border, Kill Three" published in the 11 January Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on page 39.]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Tajikistan

OW1401171193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan [as received] on Thursday [14 January] signed an international relations treaty in Bishkek. No agreement was reached on border issues at talks between delegations led by the Tajik and

Kyrgyz parliamentary speakers, Imamali Rakhmonov and Medetkan Sherimkulov.

The Kyrgyz speaker was of the view that a treaty was needed to consolidate the inviolability of the existing borders. Therefore, the inclusion of the text of this as part of the formation of an interstate commission for border issues insisted on by the Tajik side was "unacceptable" to Bishkek.

The territorial dispute between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which has still not been resolved, began in 1989 when the republics still belonged to the former USSR.

A protocol on diplomatic relations and the exchange of embassies was, nevertheless, signed during Rakhmonov's visit to Bishkek. The two sides agreed to develop "traditional, friendly relations in political, economic and other spheres."

Tajikistan

Life 'Returning Back to Normal' in Dushanbe

LD1501064393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0635 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—Life in the Tajik capital is returning back to normal after seven days of the state of emergency introduced in Dushanbe. No mass clashes between the government forces and the opposition were registered in the city, Deputy Prime Minister Mukhammad Said Ubaidullayev told TASS by telephone on Friday [15 January].

An armed group of seven people tried to penetrate into Tajikistan from Afghanistan in the Panj district last night, but was repelled by the border guards.

Disarmament of illegal armed units continues in the Central Asian republic. Police is accompanying caravans of aid to the most damaged towns and settlements. 40 trucks have left for the town of Rogun where many Russians, who work at the local power plant, are living.

Official authorities are being restored througout Tajikistan.

The major problem faced by the country today is a drastic shortage of medicines in hospitals. Aid is being rendered by Russia and the neighboring CIS states, however, Ubaidullayev said, Tajikistan also counts that the world community will render assistance.

Rakhmonov Satisfied With Aid From Central Asia

LD1501092693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0735 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 15 TASS—After returning to Dushanbe, Chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov has expressed profound satisfaction with the official visit of a Tajik delegation to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In his opinion, the talks there were fruitful and rather useful. They helped attain the noble goal—to strengthen friendship and close cooperation of those countries.

According to Rakhmonov, agreements were reached in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on rendering effective economic assistance to Tajikistan. "My country is not facing the threat of hunger this winter," he stressed. Kazakhstan agreed to deliver to Tajikistan some 300,000 tonnes of grain and fuel and lubricants in large volumes.

Participants in the talks in Bishkek and Alma-Ata stressed once again the importance of the Tashkent meeting of leaders of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan for overcoming the current difficulties facing tajikistan and restoring the national economies. Economic stabilisation and the construction of residential and industrial buildings have already begun in the Khatlon district, where a lot of buildings were destroyed. According to Rakhmonov, the lawful constitution-based government of Tajikistan has been supported by many CIS member states and other foreign countries.

Official Claims No Knowledge of Uzbek Military Aid

OW1401214493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy head of the Tajik parliament Mukhammad Said Ubaidullayev refuted reports of Uzbek military support for Tajikistan from several media sources. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX he stressed that he "knows for certain only of food aid, without which approximately 1mn residents of Kulyab and its neighboring regions would have died of hunger." Regarding the opposition, Ubaidullayev stressed that the Tajik government "has no intentions of forcing them off the republic's territory." He said the government "is trying to persuade [the opposition] to hand over their arms." "Furthermore," he said, "if the opposition gives up their weapons voluntarily, they will be left in peace despite their former anti-government activities." In the future, Ubaidullayev feels, "the people of Tajikistan will never go after Muslims, since we have received a powerful inoculation, having seen the true face of the Wahhabi." Ubaidullayev said he had no information so far of whether famine has truly begun in the regions controlled by the opposition, and that electricity has been cut off to the areas. He was referring to the lack of telephone connections.

Refugees Gather on Border To Return From Afghanistan

OW1401175493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than 10,000 Tajik refugees, who are currently in Afghanistan, have gathered near the border, willing to return home. They had fled to Afghanistan earlier, fearing combat operations between the government and opposition forces. According to different sources, there are 60,000 to 100,000 Tajik refugees in Afghanistan.

Every day, several hundred refugees return to Tajikistan.

The Russian frontier guards insist on talks with the Afghan authorities concerning problems connected with the organization of the crossing of the Pyandzh River.

The Tajik leaders asked neighboring Uzbekistan to supply them with vessels from the Termez River transportation line.

Armenia

Tougher Sanctions on CIS Agreement Violators Advocated

OW1401175993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia still supports the idea of the CIS and favors stronger integration between its members. The Armenian president's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, told INTERFAX that an Armenian delegation, led by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, will take part in the CIS summit in Minsk on January 22.

The future of the CIS depends on its members' ability to ensure the implementation of the agreements reached between themselves and with foreign countries, he said. He also noted that Armenia intends to toughen sanctions against the states violating the reached agreements.

'Intensified' Azerbaijani Offensive Reported

NC1401151293 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The predictions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] self-defense forces headquarters came true. According to KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY, following a relative calm, the Azerbaijani Army intensified its military operations all along the NKR's eastern border beginning on the evening of 13 January.

Stepanakert was shelled with long-range artillery from military basis in Agdamskiy at 2300, causing injures and new material damage to the city. The casualty figures are being determined.

Large Azerbaijani Army formations, supported by artillery and tanks, launched an attack on the southeastern sector of Martuninskiy Rayon's border in an attempt to move towards the village of Chartar at 0630. According to up-to-the-minute information, local self- defense detachments are halting the Azerbaijani attacks. The battles are continuing.

At the same time, the villages of Ichan and Kazanchi in Mardakertskiy Rayon, and Khanabad, Karaglukh, (Sardarashen) in Askeranskiy Rayon, and (Norutashen) in Gadrutskiy Rayon were subjected to massive artillery shelling. The shelling was still continuing at 1300. The NKR self-defense forces headquarters believes that the shellings might be followed by attacks from the Azerbaijani armed formations against these settlements.

NKR self-defense forces have halted an Azerbaijani offensive launched from the direction of Kubatlinskiy Rayon against the Lachin humanitarian corridor.

Border Villages Shelled

NC1401160993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] We reported (?the capture) of the height near Karmiragpyur in Tavushskiy Rayon yesterday. In the last 10 days, that height had been used to shell settlements in the region.

Our correspondent Tsolak Grigoryan reported that the enemy violating the [words indistinct], massively shelled the entire rayon from its military bases in the villages of Alibeyli, Agdam, and (Hadzhilar) all day yesterday. The villages of Chinari, Movses, Nerkin-Karmiragpyur, and Tovush suffered particularly heavily, with three residents being killed and injuries and destruction being reported. Three missiles were fired on defense positions in the rayon from the military base at Alibeyli at 0800 today.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vazgen Kavalyan, the rayon's military commandant, who was injured yesterday, informed our correspondent that the self-defense forces are controlling both the captured height and the entire border region. [passage omitted]

[Yerevan SNARK in English at 1219 GMT on 14 January reported: "The military department informs, the town of Goris at the south of Armenia has been shelled by 'Grad' launcher. One woman killed and five citizens injured. The same source informed SNARK's reporter on an unsuccessful attempt of the armed group of Azeris to penetrate the Idzhevanskiy district at the north-east of Armenia. The enemy left seven soldiers killed, others managed to escape."]

Presidential Decree Increases Wages, Grants

OW1401224893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Ter-Petrosyan has signed a decree raising wages, salaries, pensions, student grants, and various kinds of allowances to partially make up for continuing inflation. The decree, as of January 1, 1993, sets the minimum monthly wage and pension at 2,000 rubles. It raises the salaries in the public sector by 65 percent and more than doubles the pensions of orphaned children and handicapped people. The ordinary grant in higher educational establishments has been put up to 1,650 rubles, the honors grant, at 2,000 rubles a month. Postgraduate students will be paid 2,500 rubles, those doing doctorates, 3,000 rubles a month.

Allowances for children under 17 have been increased from 410 to 650 rubles. The lump sum allowance for the birth of a baby has been raised to 2,000 rubles.

Azerbaijan

Gambarov Reports Military Data, Parliament's Tasks

OW1401195693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During December and the first ten days of January, 12 Armenian combat aircraft and helicopters were brought down over the Azeri territory, the Azeri forces destroyed 10 tanks, about 10 armored vehicles, and other military equipment. These data were presented by the chairman of the Azeri parliament, Isa Gambarov, at a press conference on Thursday in Baku.

Speaking about the short-term tasks of the Azeri society, Gambarov called the development and the adoption of a new constitution of the republic, and conduction of new parliamentary elections as the main ones. The parliament's head reported that the draft bill on the grounds of the parliamentary elections is practically ready and has been handed over to milli-majlis for consideration. Gambarov expressed his hope that the draft would be adopted late January - early February.

Clashes Updated, Another Helicopter Reportedly Downed

NC1401192093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has issued the following communique:

Armenian military sub-units that have occupied a part of our republic's territory have recently attempted to occupy Fizuli and separate the Azerbaijan military units in that rayon from the main body of their forces in Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons. Considering the enemy's plans, the Azerbaijani Command Headquarters decided to deal effective blows on the Armenian armed groups. Azerbaijani military sub-units in Fizulinskiy Rayon attacked the enemy after a wave of artillery shelling last night. Our fighters defeated the numerically superior Armenian armed groups and captured the strategically important (Uriyandag) heights. The enemy attacked the heights to redeem its losses. Fierce fighting is still continuing in that area.

Meanwhile, fighting is also continuing in Azerbaijan's northwestern parts. Exchanges of fire took place near Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon all day today.

Azerbaijani air defense units hit and destroyed another Armenian military helicopter at 1201 today. Bravo to the Azerbaijan air defense units.

Aircraft Shot Down Over Nagorno-Karabakh

OW1501135993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Four Azeri low flying aircraft were shot down Friday [15 January] by anti-aircraft defence forces from Nagorno-Karabakh. The aircraft had set out on a bombing mission of populated areas of the Mardakert region. The fate of the pilots is not known. This report was received from the Karabakh News Agency.

The news agency said that Azeri attacks in the Mardakert region were continuing.

Guseynov Wants Russian Trade Pact Concluded by 1 Feb

LD1401221993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Ragim Guseynov, prime minister of Azerbaijan, has demanded that the trade and economic agreement with Russia should be completed before 1 February this year. The need to speed up the economic agreement with Russia is partly connected with the intention of the Russian Government to bring into effect a 65 percent tax and a special trade regime with Azerbaijan from that day.

'Direct Successor' to Communist Party Established

PM1501123193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Zaur Kadymbekov report: "Azerbaijan: Successor to Communist Party"]

[Text] Just before the New Year the Azerbaijani Revolutionary Revival Party (ARRP) was officially registered in Baku. Doctor of Historical Sciences Sayad Sayadov was elected general secretary of the Central Committee.

"Our party," he said, "sees itself as the direct successor to the republic's Communist Party. We currently have just 3,000 members. But our doors are open. People are joining us."

Georgia

Abkhazia Blames State for Suspended Talks on POWs

NC1401142193 Yerevan SNARK in English 0953 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Gudauta, January 14 (SNARK)—Official sources of Abkhazia assert, Georgia is to be blamed for the suspended talks, concerning the prisoners of war (POW), based on "all to all" exchange, held lately.

The Georgian side has returned only two people and 23 corpses. The medical examination showed, 12 Abkhazian and Russian soldiers of 19-35 years old had been shot by Georgians just three or six hours before the exchange took place. The prisoners were first beaten and then tortured. The bodies had lots of wounds, some of them have their ring-fingers cut. Two saved soldiers are in an average state of health status, the doctors assert. The commission on human rights and international relations of the Abkhazian parliament has informed the international organizations of the fact.

Abkhazian Parliament Head Reportedly Wounded

LD1501114993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] An RIA correspondent has learned from reliable sources that Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba was wounded in Gudauta this morning. The circumstances of the incident are not known. Apparently this happened following an argument involving Abkhazian leaders.

Report Refuted

OW1501123593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1150 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Igor Akhba, the plenipotentiary representative of Abkhazia in Moscow, refuted messages spread in Tbilisi that the chairman of the Abkhazian Parliament, Vladislav Ardzinba, was wounded as a result of a clash under unidentified circumstances on Friday morning in Gudauta.

According to the Abkhazian representative, Ardzinba is in Moscow at the moment.

Officials Visiting Israel Discuss Abkhazia

TA0801145193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 93 p B 6

[Report by Isabela Ginor; names in slantlines and titles as published]

[Text] Tedo Japaridze, until recently Georgia's deputy foreign minister and currently national security adviser to Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian parliament speaker and leader, has arrived for talks in Israel in the midst of a difficult confrontation between Georgia and Russia over the latter's part in the separatist uprising of Muslims in the Abkhaz District. Japaridze is well- versed in reciting Georgia's claims in this bloody conflict. He lectures in fine English: "Only 17 percent of the population of that district are Abkhazians. Some 45 to 47 percent are Georgians, and the rest are Russians, Greeks, Kurds, and Jews. There are more Armenians than Abkhazians there, and there is even an Estonian village. Nevertheless, the Abkhazians enjoy an incomparable autonomy, including a fixed majority in the local parliament and a privileged status for their culture. And here comes that mad paper DEN (the organ of the Russian national right-wing—I.G.) and publishes an interview with Jurab Ajaba [name as transliterated], the so-called spiritual leader of the Abkhazians, headed 'Abkhazia Is Russia.'

"Why are the Russians so connected to Abkhazia? Except for its geographic location—on the Black Sea shores, bordering on Russia and near the Turkish border—it is simply a beautiful area of sea and mountains, and many senior officials have their dachas there. So, this Ajaba is inviting all the Russian officers who were left homeless to come there, and also mentions that there are many military industry plants, laboratories, and so on, which have stopped operating and which they would like to reactivate.

"At the onset of the crisis," he continues, "we warned that the Muslim Chechens (whose district, north of the Caucasus, has declared independence) might join the Abkahzians; currently only a few of them are fighting there. Most of the foreigners helping the Abkhazians are Cossacks and Russian soldiers. Russian Army Sukhoy-25 jets and helicopters have been shelling Sukhumi, the Georgian- controlled district capital. Recently, a helicopter was downed (killing women and children evacuated from Abkhazia—I.G.) and no one knows by whom."

[Ginor] Later, it was reported that you are on the verge of declaring war on Russia.

[Japaridze] If we only could. We are not that crazy. We are only demanding of Russia to start treating Georgia, or any other republic for that matter, as a state of equal status. They should forget their aspirations to become an empire and stop acting the big brother. We are not talking in terms of propaganda of "friendship," only normal relations. We realize that despite its economic situation, Russia will remain a superpower.

The USSR died, but the Russian imperialistic spirit is alive and kicking. This is a major problem, not only for neighbors such as Georgia, but also for the Russians themselves. The Russians are forgetting that they themselves are on the verge of a civil war. Speaking recently at the Security Council, I warned that the next stage will take place inside Russia. This is what is happening now in Ingushia, which is a part of the Chechen autonomy, whose people demand to annex areas populated by Ingushians in the north of neighboring Ossetia. This might later go deeper into Russia—to Bashkiria, Tatarstan, and Yakutia. It is an endless chain reaction.

The Russians also have an inconsistent policy on ethnic disputes: In the conflict between the Christian Ossetians and Muslim Ingushians, the Russians supported the Ossetians because the Chechens supported the Ingushians; on the other hand, in Abkhazia the Russians are supporting the Muslims.

Konstantin Zhgenty, political director of the Georgian Foreign Ministry, seconds Japaridze: "In Bosnia, the Russians are allegedly supporting the Christians against Muslim extremists, and here they do the opposite." Japaridze adds that in Tajikistan as well the Russians support the fundamentalists. It is all about manipulation.

[Ginor] Do you believe this is all planned in Moscow, or are these initiatives by local commanders?

[Japaridze] We are interested in stability in Russia. Shevardnadze has praised President Yeltsin's efforts on more than one occasion. At the same time, it sometimes seems to us that Yeltsin does not control what is happening in his country, particularly with the Army.

Strange things are happening. The command of the CIS forces in the Caucasus is stationed in Tbilisi, but the Russian troops in Abkhazia are, for some reason, subjected to someone in Moscow. When we contact the Tbilisi headquarters regarding things that took place in Abkhazia, we are directed to Moscow; when we call Moscow, we are told to contact the local commander. Three days before we left for Israel, they bombarded the Sukhumi marketplace, killing many civilians, including Russians. We called Moscow, and some general there told us: "We do not know whose planes these are. Shoot them down if you can."

[Ginor] Where do the Abkhazians get their weapons, outside Russia?

[Japaridze] Arms trade in the Caucasus is one the biggest problems. Large quantities of weapons exchange hands there, making it a very profitable trade: All sorts of local commanders are selling arms to all the fighting parties. Also, currently fighting against us in Abkhazia are Libyans, Syrians, and Turks, although the Turkish Government has officially declared that they are private citizens and condemned their participation, because it is neutral.

[Ginor] Would you say that Iranians are also fighting there?

[Japaridze] Who knows?

[Zhgenty] We have documents of appeals made by Abkhazians to Middle East countries: Come, fight with us, and we will give you homes and Abkhaz citizenship. This is naturally done to change demographic balance.

[Japaridze] Abkhazia could serve as a bridge between the Muslim nations of the northern Caucasus and the Middle East. Historically, Georgia has been the mediator in the region, and we have usually maintained good relations with the Muslim nations. American friends who recently visited the Chechen district, told us that not everyone there is happy with the line of separatist leader Dudayev. Some even seek correct relations with Georgia.

[Ginor] If I understand you correctly, you came to Israel to ask for support against the threat of Muslim encirclement?

[Japaridze] No. We would not like to get Israel involved, but in certain respects we are in a similar state.

[Ginor] A small country surrounded by Muslim enemies?

[Japaridze] We have good ties with some of our neighbors. We have very good ties with Turkey; we have good relations, out of force, with Iran which supplies us with oil. Israel, however, could serve as a role model, being a country with an independent security system through which it alone guarantees its safety. We have a whole list of areas of cooperation, and our aim in coming here was to put them on practical tracks.

[Ginor] In any event, it seems that the current conflict with the Russians refutes the claim by deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia that the uprising against him was cooked up by Shevardnadze, on a mission from Moscow. Does it not?

[Japaridze] I do not know about Gamsakhurdia. As far as Shevardnadze is concerned, nobody hates and nobody likes him. I, however, respect him. He is simply the only option Georgia has today. He can make a significant contribution to Georgia thanks to his internationally acquired reputation and connections.

[Ginor] Is joining the CIS out of the question?

[Japaridze] Yes. And it is about time someone explained the meaning of this commonwealth.

[Ginor] You are not members of it, therefore you cannot enjoy the aid it receives from the West.

[Japaridze] No, we cannot, but I doubt that any of the CIS republics besides Russia gets anything. That is why the West has also realized now that it has to make its allocations separately to each country so that all of the aid is not sucked into the Russian black hole. Richard Armitage told me several months ago that there is a need to set up "a democratic belt of stability" around Russia, which would help the Russians implement the reform.

[Ginor] How can you escape this black hole when the ruble is still the legal currency in Georgia?

[Japaridze] This is really a means of Moscow's pressure on us.

[Ginor] Could Shevardnadze in the meantime break through the economic closure that Russia has clamped on you?

[Japaridze] This is not easy even for him. The closure is very difficult. It is hard for you to even imagine the hardships the Georgians have to deal with. Not to mention the Armenians, who are in an even worse state.

[Ginor] You are saying that Yeltsin does not control the whole of Russia. Its seems that, in view of the tribal and political rifts, no one can control the whole of Georgia.

[Japaridze] The situation is very complicated indeed. There are regions in the west where there definitely is opposition to the Tbilisi government. But the problem facing Shevardnadze and the Georgian Government is mainly economic—how to feed the people. If we achieve a breakthrough on this, the political rivalries will also be settled.

Vice Premier Favors Economic Cooperation With Russia

LD1401134993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 14 TASS—"If we decide to stay in the rouble area, we must play according to its rules," Georgian Vice Premier Roman Gotsiridze told the Georgian Parliament on Wednesday night. He presented a report on the results of his visit to Moscow, where Georgian-Russian meetings, talks and consultations had been held recently.

An understanding has been reached that Russia will assign several tens of billions of roubles to Georgia in cash in the coming days for the republic to be able to pay off arrears in the payment of wages and salaries, pensions, student grants and allowances to the population for December and January, the vice premier said.

Gotsiridze spoke in detail about the problems of trade between the two states, emphasising that Georgia and Russia have their own interests in this respect, which require coordination.

Preparatory work to elaborate accords on the monetary policy and the system of mutual set-off settlements is already under way, the Georgian vice premier said.

Parliament Demands Withdrawal From Ruble Zone

OW1401133993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1224 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament has sharply criticized Vice-Premier Roman Gotsiridze for signing in Moscow economic agreements with Russia on a common currency unit and monetary relations.

The overwhelming majority of speakers said the talks in Moscow cannot be considered valid, because the powers of the delegation were not approved by parliament. They felt that Georgia must immediately leave the ruble zone and introduce its own currency.

The argument of the vice-premier that it would mean disaster for Georgia was ignored.

The issue will be discussed by parliamentary committees.

Several days ago Eduard Shevardnadze said: "We must remain in the ruble zone as long as we are kept in it." He compared the introduction of a national currency to getting inside a sack and tying it up. He said Georgia's resources have almost been exhausted. Without Western aid, the country would be facing mass death.

Shevardnadze Cited on Chernomyrdin Appointment

MK1401163793 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[G. Lolishvili report: "Shevardnadze: Chernomyrdin Is a Good Thing"]

[Text] Tbilisi—An extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament has begun in Tbilisi. Organizational questions associated with Georgia's Armed Forces were on the session agenda.

During a session recess E. Shevardnadze answered a KURANTY correspondent's questions in the parliamentary lobby. According to Shevardnadze, at present there is no force in the republic capable of carrying out a coup d'etat. Shevardnadze also stated that in the event of any political clashes the parliamentary majority would be on his side, since he has managed to enlist the support of the deputies' corps.

Shevardnadze was also extremely positive in characterizing the recent appointment of Russian Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin, who, according to the chairman of the Georgian parliament, is a "businesslike person who endeavors to conclude discussion of any question with specific decisions."

Prime Minister Satisfied With Visit to France

OW1501134193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1150 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Prime Minister, Tengiz Sigua, believes that a new stage in relations between the two countries has opened up as a result of the visit to France by a Georgian delegation which he headed. The Premier gave an interview to journalists in Tbilisi airport on Thursday [14 January] evening, upon his return form Paris.

Sigua reported that during the "fruitful" negotiations in France with representatives of the government and business circles of that country, the parties reached agreements on the creation of a joint venture with the "Reno"

company, concerning the training of the Georgian students in Grenoble University. The parties also negotiated the issues concerning agriculture and the construction of roads. According to the Premier, the issue regarding roads is "the most important one, because, in the near future, Georgia plans to start construction of modern highways connecting the Black and Caspian Seas, Georgia and Iran."

Estonia

Government To Dissolve 'Secret Special Service'

WS1401130293 Riga THE BALTIC OBSERVER in English 24 Dec - 5 Jan 93 p 9

[Report attributed to BNS: "Estonia Redesigns Security Police"]

[Text] Estonia will dissolve its secret Special Service and remove the authority of the Police Department over the Defense Police by setting up a separate Department for Defense Police in an attempt to overcome the controversy between its two secret services.

The moves are anticipated in proposed amendments to the police law, Interior Minister Lagle Parek said last week. She said such had been the conclusions reached by a special government commission, led by Justice Minister Kaido Kama, investigating the activities of the Secret Service and the Defense Police.

The draft foresees the setting up of a security guard unit to replace the Special Service. The government and parliament complex at Toompea and the president's Kadriorg residence will be guarded by the defense forces. The police will take over at the airport and the sea port. Foreign embassies are under police guard already since December 1.

A new Department for Defense Police will be set up from the present Defense Police.

The amendments to the police law are still to be approved by the Parliament.

* Bank From Soviet Period Ordered Sold

93P20075A Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 3 Jan 93 p B 10

[Article by Mart Ummelas: "Tartu Kommertspank To Be Sold at Auction"]

[Text] Tallinn—Following a final decision made two weeks ago by the Estonian Central Bank, the country's oldest and largest commercial bank from the communist period, Tartu Kommertspank, will be auctioned in Tartu on 15 January.

An attempt will be made at the auction to sell the bank in its entirety or to sell its local branches individually. Not only are its assests on the block, but also the bank itself, with all its properties and obligations. The total worth of the instituition is put at tens of millions of [Finnish] markkas.

Allowed to participate in the auction will be those who have applied for and received official permission from Estonian authorities to engage in banking.

The crisis now being experienced by the commercial banks that were founded during the Soviet period came to a head at the end of November and the beginning of December, when the state bank ordered a freeze in operations of the third largest commercial bank, subsequently ordering a closure of the largest and oldest of these, Tartu Kommertspank.

In the background of the bank's closing are also found political reasons. A large proportion of the Tartu bank's directors is made up of former officials of the communist regime. The bank's president, Rein Kaarepere, was a personal assistant of Soviet Estonia Prime Minister Bruno Saul and was later appointed to head Saul's bank. The bank has been granting large long-term loans on very favorable terms supported by doubtful collateral. The Estonian Government has threatened to bring charges in court against the bank's directors for their actions.

Foreign Warships May Use Gulf of Finland

OW1501132693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1204 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia does not seek to prevent foreign warships from passing through the Gulf of Finland, Jaanus Betlem, a member of the Isamaa parliamentary group, forming part of the ruling coalition, said at a press conference on Thursday. The Estonian government, he said, proposes setting a limit to the country's territorial waters at a distance of less than 12 nautical miles from the coast.

As has been reported, on Monday the government introduced to parliament a draft law on Estonia's territorial waters, under which the boundary would in some places be only between six and nine miles away from the shore.

Betlem said setting the width of the zone at 12 miles throughout its length would contradict Estonia's strategic interests, and that Estonia should leave in the middle of the gulf an area through which any nation's vessels, including military ones, would be able to pass freely.

Prior to 1940, the country's waters were four miles wide.

Court Clears Freighter Suspected of Arms Transport

WS1401130693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1848 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, January 13—An Estonian freighter rented out to Dutch Van Uden Maritime B.V. seized by Italian police on suspicion of carrying parts of Scud ground-to-ground missiles was actually carrying non-military industrial equipment, an Italian court ruled, the press office of Estonia's Foreign Ministry told ETA.

Syracuse county court ruled that documents for carrying 27 boxes of equipment and an export licence were in order.

Waalhaven has left the port of Augusta for Beirut, Mark Sinisoo, an adviser to the Foreign Ministry, told ETA.

The ship's cargo was left in Augusta as Germany wanted to investigate it further to decide whether this equipment could, in combination other equipment, be used in missile industry, Sinisoo said. Germany has to pay the Dutch company damages, Estonia's ambassador to Germany, Tiit Matsulevits told Estonia's Foreign Ministry.

Waalhaven loaded the suspected parts in Hamburg, northern Germany, and was sailing for Syria when Italian police intercepted it on December 25 following a tipp-off from German authorities, AFP said on December 29.

Latvia

Tevzeme Movement Demands Government's Resignation

OW1401141393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1228 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian national movement Tevzeme has issued a statement concerning corruption in the Gorbunovs-Godmanis administration and demands the resignation of the cabinet. It says that corruption has assumed a disastrous scale, and the government has failed to report on the actual revenue and budget spending. Tevzeme demands a trial of corrupt officials and the confiscation of embezzled property.

Tevzeme was formed on December 12, 1992, and declared as its objectives the deoccupation, decolonization and "de-Bolshevization" of the country. Its founding conference was attended by 130 delegates. The Vidzeme chapter of the Latvian Popular Front formed the core of the new movement.

Agency Prepares for Talks on Russian Troops' Housing

OW1401141093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1228 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian agency supervising the withdrawal of Russian troops from the country is considering the possibility of holding talks with Denmark and the command of Russian troops, concerning the construction of housing for withdrawing the Russian officers. [sentence as received]

At a recent meeting in Moscow of the three Baltic states, Denmark, Norway and Russia, Latvia confirmed its readiness to take part in the construction. The head of the agency Ilgonis Upmalis told BALTFAX that his country was not satisfied with the proposal to offer the work to foreign or Russian contractors. It believes that Latvian building companies should also be involved.

Russian Army Denies Entrance to Bolderaja Port

WS1401131093 Tallinn BNS in English 1847 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] RIGA, Jan 13, BNS—Management of the Russian northwestern army group will not admit entrance of Latvian authorities into the territory of the war port at Bolderaja, Riga, unless the Russian Defense Ministry issues an appropriate permit.

The Latvian Minister of State Janis Dinevics, who earlier expressed a wish to visit the Bolderaja military installation, will be hardly given the permission to do it.

The military's stance was revealed at a conversation between a senior Russian military official Nikolay Tailokov and Ilgonis Upmalis, the head of the bureau for monitoring the Russian troops withdrawal from the Baltics, on Tuesday [12 January].

Another issues discussed at the meeting were the expected handover of the port's territory to Latvian authorities and monitoring of commercial activity on the port's territory. A document, signed Jan. 6, envisages to hand over the military labour department, located on the port's territory, to the self-government of the Riga Kurzeme district.

A customs zone has been created around the port's territory to monitor activities of various commercial structures, inclined to bypass customs control by transporting their goods through the military port, the Riga Customs director Zigurds Tamsons told BNS.

The port's management does not oppose to the move, as it is equally interested in controlling the extensive commercial activities at Bolderaja port, Tamsons added.

Cabinet Session Completes Budget Discussion

OW1401142093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1228 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the Latvian cabinet, which ended on Wednesday night, completed the discussion of the budget. The deficit will amount to about 7 billion Latvian rubles. It appointed Uldis Benikis, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Deputy Finance Minister.

The government annulled the decision of the Vidzeme local government to sell to a private individual a building which belonged to the Estonian embassy before 1940. The building will be returned to the Estonian Republic.

It passed a resolution on compensation for housing left behind by persons moving abroad. The size of compensation will be set by the local authorities.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Moldova

OW1401134993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1228 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Latvian Foreign Ministry has announced that Latvia and Moldova have exchanged notes on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Lithuania

Government Wants Russia To Reduce Fuel Prices

OW1401184793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1809 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There is a hope that in 1993, Russia will bring down the prices for the natural gas it supplies to Lithuania, Deputy Minister of Energetics Robertas Tamosiunas said this in an interview for BALTFAX. At present, Lithuania is paying $85 per 1000 cubic meters of gas.

Early this week, heads of the Lithuanian Ministry of Energetics were in Moscow where they met with their Russian counterparts, as well as with directors of gas and oil producing concerns.

The purpose of their stay and meetings in Moscow was to find out whether and how the recent political changes in both countries would affect the attitude of the Russian structures in charge of fuel resources toward their future cooperation with Lithuania. Lithuania intends to resume talks on the free trade between the two countries, as well as regarding oil and gas supplies this year. The Lithuanian delegation has reached an agreement with their Moscow opposite numbers that the experts of the two countries should meet to address these issues in the near future.

In the words of Mr Tamosiunas, there are no more obstacles for Lithuania regarding its natural gas purchases from Russia, while there some of the aspects of oil sales still remain unclear. Russia has not determined the price for the "bartered" 1.5 Mn tons of oil it pledged to provide to Lithuania, since the production of oil is rapidly declining. In the future, Lithuania, as any other country, will have to pay hard currency for the "exported" oil.

The parties also reached an agreement regarding their drafting of a bilateral cooperation agreement in the sphere of nuclear energetics.

78 Percent of Former Soviet Troops Withdrawn

LD1401174193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladlas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 14 TASS—According to a statement circulated by the Lithuanian Ministry of Regional Protection, "by the beginning of September, 1992 some 20,000-22,000 Russian servicemen making up a total of 288 divisions and including 5 motorised rifle regiments were stationed in Lithuania. By the end of December, 1992, 78 per cent of former Soviet troops had been withdrawn from Lithuania. This proves that the schedule of the troops withdrawal from Lithuania, stipulated by an agreement between Lithuania and Russia signed on September 8, 1992, is being observed in principle."

However, considerable violations of the schedule have been reported: The withdrawal of Russian naval forces has not begun yet, and Russian air force units are being withdrawn from Lithuania considerably behind the schedule, the statement said.

Lithuania has taken over 52 military facilities, including a "northern town" in the centre of Vilnius. There is not a single Russian soldier left in the Lithuanian capital, the statement said.

Transport Agreements Reached With Russia

OW1501132493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1203 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Lithuanian Railway Ministry official, Henrikas Jackevicius, said on Friday that officials from the transport ministries of Lithuania and Russia at this week's working meeting in Moscow drafted agreements on air, sea, and river transportation between the two countries.

He said the delegations have also reached an agreement on the cancellation of the mutual debts of Lithuanian and Russian transport services, and decided to sign an agreement on tariffs for the servicing of each other's aircraft and vessels.

The work on a motor transport agreement is still unfinished, Jackevicius said, since there remain disagreements concerning payments for Russian vehicles' transit through Lithuanian territory on their way to Russia's Kaliningrad Region. These problems, however, will hopefully be solved by the Lithuanian and Russian Prime Ministers at their meeting scheduled to take place in Kaliningrad at the end of the month, Jackevicius said.

Budget Committee Votes No Confidence in Bank Chairman

LD1201211693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Today the Budget and Finance Committee of the Seimas expressed no confidence with the chairman of the board of the Bank of Lithuania, Mr. Vilius Baldisius. The committee claimed that the bank fails to perform its functions as provided for by its statutes.

Last week a similar no confidence statement was made by the Seimas right-wing opposition. The issue of the leadership of the Bank of Lithuania is expected to be settled already this week. And the LIETUVOS RYTAS daily asserts that various candidatures are already being considered by factions in the Seimas.

Opposition Criticizes State Budget for 1993

LD1201195293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The opposition members in the Lithuanian seimas have levelled criticism at the draft budget for 1993. It was submitted by the government last week, and its examination in parliament will continue on 14 January.

Speaking at the opposition briefing, member of the opposition, former minister of finance Elvira Kuneviciene said that the process of the decentralization of the budget is a tangible goal but it should be developing faster. In 1993, according to the draft, the budget will constitute 162.808 billion units of the temporary Lithuanian money - coupons. In Kuneviciene's view, although the budget has officially been increased by 1.64 times, as compared with 1992, it is, in fact, not growing. Officially, the budget has been fulfilled without deficit, but in reality, if it were indexed in relation to the growth of prices, it would have a deficit, noted Kuneviciene. According to her, the prices have increased by 4.2 times, and the budget was been increased by only two times.

In the conditions of the present increase of prices, the budget should be prepared according to the prices of 1 January 1993, and the further order of its indexation should be established. However, the draft budget does not contain the relative growth in revenue and expenditure. Kuneviciene criticized individual articles of the expenditure and revenue. She was for a reduction of subsidies to the government departments and institutions and for an increase of expenditure for the needs of culture and education.

According to another member of the opposition, Stasys Malkevicius, a vital error in the draft budget is in that the state intends to subsidize the economy with the aid of investments. We must privatize the economy and with the help of private and also foreign capital obtain the revenue for the budget and not create budget expenditure, noted Malkevicius.

Parliament Begins To Discuss 1993 State Budget

OW1401193393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1809 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Seimas begins discussing the bill on the state budget for 1993 this Thursday. The planned budget deficit is set at 5 Bn [billion] Lithuanian coupons.

The leader of the Social Democratic faction in the Lithuanian parliament, Aloyzas Sakalas, criticized the bill, saying it does not provide a comprehensive view of the prospects of the state policy. The faction is insisting that the government expeditiously prepare and implement the program of structural reconstruction of the republic's economy.

Representatives of some of the parliamentary factions and committees want certain corrections to be introduced into the bill in order to bring down the expenses for maintaining some of the government structures and introducing monthly indexation of salaries of employees in budged organizations.

The consideration of the bill has been postponed until next week.

The parliament passed a decision to expedite the consideration of the proposal by Prime Minister Bronislavas Lubys regarding the introduction of state monopoly for liquor and tobacco import and sales beginning February 1. The head of government explained that often imported to the republic as quality beverages are the surrogates the sale of which damages the state budget while their use human health.

Economics Minister, IMF Official Discuss Privatization

WS1401130493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1442 GMT 13 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 163]

[Text] 13 January 1993—At the meeting with a mission of the International Monetary Fund headed by Adalbert Knoble, the Lithuanian Minister of Economics Julius Veselka said that the Memorandum and the main principles of privatization adopted by the Government would not be changed. Adalbert Knobl promised that at the end of January the EC will start paying Lithuania a credit granted by countries of the group G 2 plus 4. The credit is worth 285 million dollars. The money is provided for the programme of economic stabilization.

The mission of IMF will be working in Lithuania for two weeks. At the meeting with representatives of IMF the Minister of Economics touched upon the common economic problems of Lithuania, such as privatizaton, the freezing of payments, the future of Lithuanian enterprises and their perspectives in the Western market economy, etc.

According to the Minister, it is necessary to end the first period of privatization. Lithuania needs a normal market system and a new system of taxes. "There are great number of quarrelsome questions which should be discussed with representatives of IMF," the Minister said.

Brazauskas Assures Cooperation

OW1301132193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1114 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite recent changes in the Lithuanian leadership, the size of financial aid coming to Lithuania from the International Monetary Fund will not change, head of the IMF's Baltic Department Adalbert Knoble told Algirdas Brazauskas on Tuesday.

The IMF mission arrived in Lithuania in accordance with the earlier drafted program for quarterly inspection of the implementation of the economic reforms and of the observance of the memorandum on Lithuania's economic policies.

Brazauskas assured the IMF representatives that the Lithuanian Government would maintain cooperation with their organization. He also informed Adalbert Knoble that the government has set up a commission for working out individual amendments to the memorandum.

Brazauskas Criticizes Lozoraitis Candidacy for President

LD1501102593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Stasys Lozoraitis, Lithuanian ambassador to the United States, who is a candidate for the post of the Lithuanian president, cannot be regarded as an independent candidate because he is supported by right-wing forces, Lithuanian acting president Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, stated yesterday when speaking to foreign journalists. Brazauskas described Lozoraitis as his main opponent in the struggle for the presidency. He also stated that if Stasys Lozoraitis is elected president, the present Cabinet of Ministers might be changed. This cabinet, in the opinion of Algirdas Brazauskas, is made up of very competent experts.

Gorbachev 'Silent Approval' to '91 Vilnius Events Suggested

WS1401131493 Tallinn BNS in English 1853 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 13, BNS—The case of the tragic events in Vilnius in January 1991 has much evidence suggesting that the anti-Lithuanian action was carried out with the silent approval of the USSR's former president Mikhail Gorbachev. Such a conclusion was made by Juozas Gaudutus, the chief procurator of the Lithuanian Procurator-General's Office's Investigation Department, during his interview with the newspaper "Respublika."

Gaudutis noted that despite the promise to give evidence, Gorbachev has been avoiding this for two years.

Lithuania's ex-charge d'affairs in Moscow, Egidius Bickauskas, told the newspaper "Lietuvos Rytas" about his futile attempts to get in touch with Gorbachev by telephone during that tragic night. "I'm convinced," he said, "that during that night Gorbachev was hardly fast asleep. He was regularly informed of what was going on in Lithuania and just did not want to talk with me," he said.

Landsbergis Among Representatives to European Council

OW1301212993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Lithuanian parliamentary opposition, the republic's ex-chairman of the Supreme Council Vytautas Landsbergis, has been appointed Lithuania's fourth representative in the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council in 1993. He will be representing the Seimas oppositional coalition "Tevines santara" (Union of Fatherland).

At the beginning of January, appointed representatives in the EC were members of the DPLL [Democratic Labor Party] faction, the Social Democratic Party, and the Polish Union. The oppositional coalition could not nominate its representative earlier due to serious controversy in regards to principle of representation.

On Tuesday, the Seimas managed to finalize the principles of the Lithuanian representation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council for the next four years.

In the years 1994-1995, participating in its work will be two members of the Seimas from the DPLL faction and two from the oppositional coalition. In 1996, The Lithuanian delegation in the EC will include two deputies of the DPLL faction, one from the oppositional coalition, and one from the Centrist movement (which has two representatives in the Seimas) or a deputy who does not belong to any of the factions.